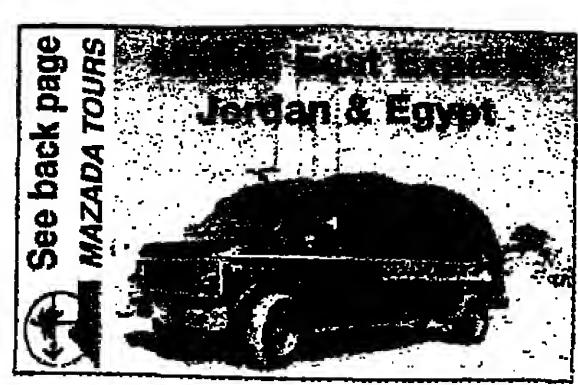


THE JERUSALEM



VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19466

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1996 • TEVET 17, 5757 • 17 SHAABAN, 1417



I family stranded by yesterday's strike waits for things to start moving again at Ben-Gurion Airport.

(Dana Stemas/Israel Sm)

Arafat: Hebron deal by Tuesday

N agreement on redeployment in Hebron is kely by Tuesday, and further redeployment of OF troops from areas B and C should take ace 45 days later, with final settlement talks · start 15 days after that, Palestinian Authority hairman Yasser Arafat told members of the A Legislative Council yesterday.

However, Saeb Erekat, chief Palestinian egotiator in the Hebron talks, said that uesday is a "target date" and "no specific ites" had yet been set for further redeployient or final settlement talks. Erekat also qualied some of Arafat's reported remarks.

Upon his return to Washington yesterday, US pecial Middle East envoy Dennis Ross briefed resident Bill Clinton on the Hebron negotiaions. Clinton was "pleased by the progress" and gave Ross "instructions on how to proceed when he returns to the region," which will

JON IMMANUEL probably be on Monday, spokeswoman April

Mellody told reporters. In Ramallah, among other decisions made

during the past few days, legislators at the meeting reported that Arafat said: e Palestinian police will carry "equivalent" weapons to IDF troops. But not necessarily the

same weapons. Erekat said. • There will be no buffer zone between H-1 and H-2, "because that would make an H-3." Erekat confirmed this, saying instead of a

buffer zone there will be "security arrange-• There will be a Palestinian checkpoint at the entrance to the Cave of Machpela. This will not

be immediate since the agreement calls for a

review of the current arrangements only after

resumed Wednesday.

three months. Erekat said.

· Shuhada Street, which runs from the center of Hebron past Beit Hadassah to the market next to the Avraham Avinu quarter, will be reopened completely within four months.

 The market next to the Avraham Avinu quarter will be reopened as a retail market. Erekat said all that now remains is to clear up some security arrangements, which will be dealt with in a meeting between security officials from both sides today.

Arafat spoke to legislators in Ramallah for more than three hours, interrupted by frequent questions about settlements. Painting a picture of future developments in Hebron, Arafat said he told Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that in talks with former prime ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres it had been (Continued on Page 18)

Strike strands thousands at B-G

Histadrut plans more stoppages

HAIM SHAPIRO and news agencies

THOUSANDS of workers protesting against planned cuts in government spending and increased taxes staged a one-day strike yesterday, disrupting international flights, shutting down the ports, and disrupting train and phone services.

All flights leaving Ben-Gurion Airport were delayed until yesterday evening. Incoming flights were allowed to land but airport workers did not unload baggage, an airport spokesman said. The strike also closed Haifa,

Ashdod and Eilat seaports. The Histadrut said it planned strikes in other sectors in coming days, and threatened to stage a general strike Tuesday, when the Knesset is due to vote on the 1997 budget

The Histadrut called the strike, saying the government's plans for cutting spending and raising revenue would hurt the poor.

"Unfortunately, the rules of the game have been violated. We wanted to be in favor of the government...but the workers feel someone is waiting for them at the comer," said Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz.

Peretz, a Labor MK, said the government's budget proposal and privatization plans would sharply

Striking today

Bezeq Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat ports

> Planned for Monday

Banks

 Ben-Gurion Airport Health services

Local authorities

erode workers' salaries and lead to massive layoffs.

The government's proposal includes NIS 7 billion in spending cuts, new taxes, and other revenue measures that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has said are necessary to rein in the deficit.

But MK Silvan Shalom (Likud) said most measures affecting the poor had been eliminated from the budget proposal during parliamentary debates.

"I don't exactly know what they're striking about. If they're talking about 'decrees' we succeeded...in cancelling most of the 'decrees,'" Shalom told Israel Radio. "I don't think anybody knows what the strike is about."

At Ben-Gurion Airport, a few dozen tourists from Europe took advantage of the extra hours in Israel to sun themselves outside the terminal, but hundreds of others milled about, waiting impatiently.

El Al spokesman Nachman Klieman said that the company had succeeded in moving up five flights to before the strike began, contacting about 1,000 passengers. Another 3,000 passengers had to wait, uncertain when their flights would take off.

The strike had originally been called for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., but it actually began at 7 a.m. and lasted until 4, stranding thousands of passengers who had expected to be able to fly despite the work action.

British Airways officials, for example, had thought they would have no problem with their 8 a.m. flight to London, but over 200 passengers had to wait several hours for their flight to take off, a company spokesman said.

Many of the passengers slept in terminal chairs and all of the terminal restaurants were full. Those who succeeded in getting to the departing passengers' lounges filled the duty-free shops.

Passengers arriving on the planes that landed during the strike were told that their luggage (Continued on Page 18)

Vilna'i: IDF prepared for any surprise Syrian attack

THE IDF has increased its preparedness for war in response to Syria's stationing troops along Mount Hermon, Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i said yesterday. The IDF has replenished exhausted ammunition supplies, introduced advanced artillery and upgraded tanks and improved exercises.

Vilna'i said the military has been preparing for a confrontation since Damascus moved a division from Beirut to the slopes of Mount Hermon in August. He said the IDF is prepared for a Syrian surprise attack on the Golan.

Full report, Page 20

Report: Shahor wants to resign from IDF today

MAJ.-GEN. Oren Shahor, coordinator of government activities in the territories, plans to inform Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai today that he wants to esign from the IDF, Israel Radio reported yesterday.

Shahor has informed senior civil administration offiials and plans to tell Mordechai officially this morning,

he radio report said. Shahor's spokesman would not confirm or deny the

"If and when the general decides to resign, there will

be an official announcement of this." he said. Shahor also revealed that Lt-Col. Daniel Riesner, the Defense Ministry's legal adviser, had replaced him in the talks with the Palestinians on civilian issues that

After an unauthorized meeting with opposition leader Shimon Peres about two months ago, the government suspended Shahor from his duties as a negotiator with the Palestinians. A security source cited this as one of the

reasons Shahor has apparently decided to resign. (Itim) Woman climbs 12-meter anchor chain to escape drowning

Husband and son presumed dead after night swim

33-YEAR-OLD woman who, ether with her husband and son, s pulled out by an undertow ile swimming off a Tel Aviv ch on Wednesday night, man-i to save herself from drowning climbing up a ship's 12-meter-: anchor chain to safety.

he man, 37, and the boy, 9, are missing. The Coast Guard, navy police searched for the two yesly to no avail. e Kulsanikov family - Irena,

plai and their son, Oleg - went nming off the old Sheraton th at around 7:30 Wednesday

fter swimming out around 300 ers, the three felt that they were

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RAINE MARCUS and itim

being pulled out to sea by an undertow, and decided to swim towards a ship that was anchored offshore, that they apparently thought was closer to them that it acmally was.

During the five-hour swim, Irena lost eye contact with Nikolai, but continued swimming towards the ship, dragging Oleg by the hair.
As she got near the boat, however,

she lost hold of her son. (Continued on Page 18)

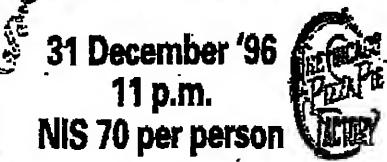


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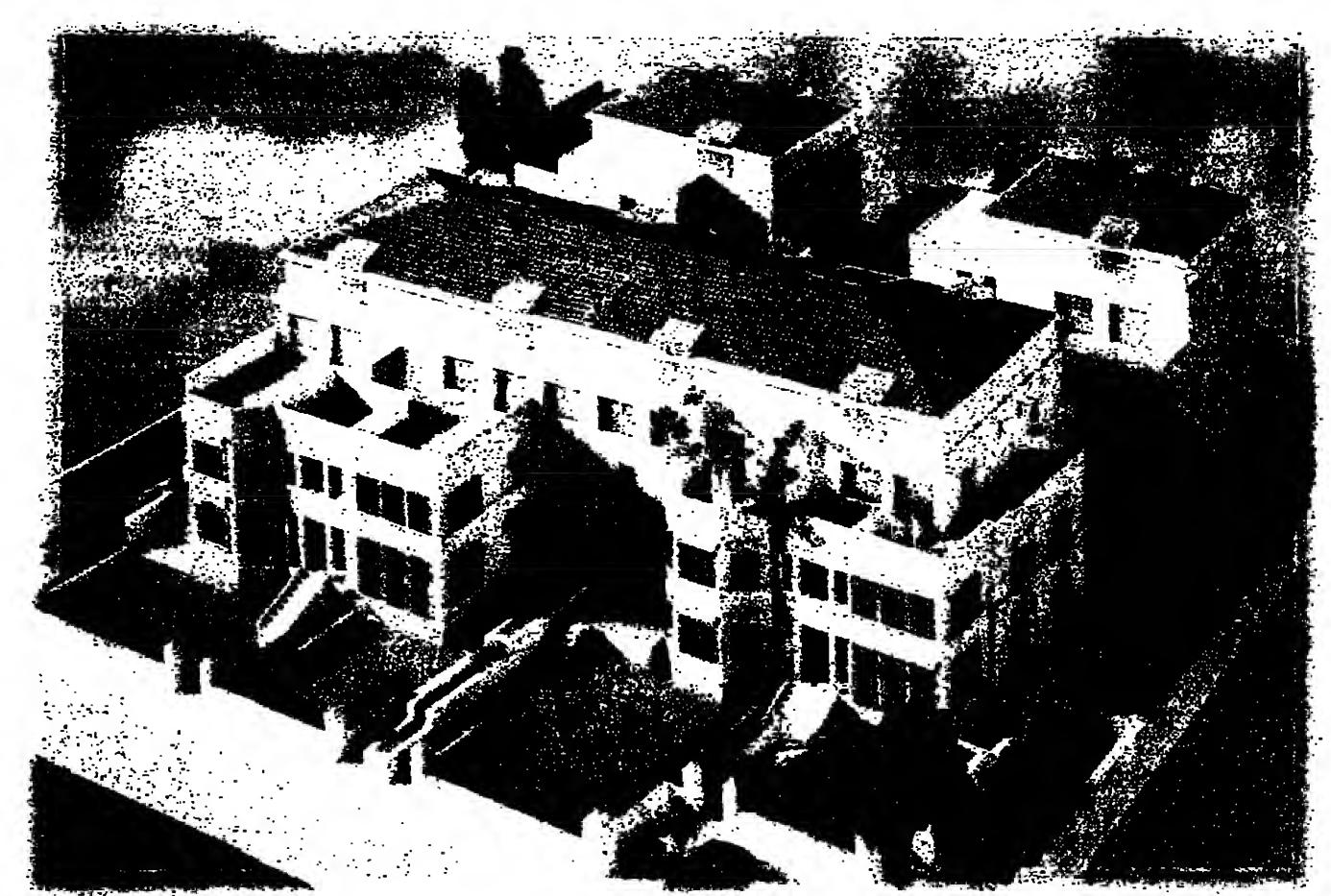


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Beilin-Eitan paper on final status with PA almost ready

MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan may, within a month, be able to present Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and opposition leader Shimon Peres with a working paper summarizing their discussions on permanent arrangements with the Palestinians, Beilin said yesterday.

He declined to specify what had been agreed so far. Beilin and Eitan were interviewed on the issue by Arabic Television.

The two have been meeting with MKs from their respective parties for several weeks to see if the two sides can reach a consensus on issues relating to the permanent arrangements. Beilin said the meetings are aimed at furthering the peace process by speeding up the implementation of the perma-

nent arrangements. Both Beilin and Eitan denied they were trying to bring about the establishment of a national unity government. "But [the talks] are important because the two main parties must know where they stand on different issues before

3 injured fleeing

Border Police

THREE people were slightly to

moderately injured yesterday

when their car swerved into a

ditch and overturned while they

were being pursued by border

policemen. The driver apparently

ignored the policemen's signal to

LIAT COLLINS

they have to face the Palestinians with them," Eitan said.

"On some points, there is a good chance we will reach an understanding," he added. "If we do, we will put out a paper emphasizing these unifying points, without besitating to note also the points we differ on."

Eitan, unlike Beilin, would not say when he thought such a working paper would be ready.

We have been meeting out of curiosity, to see whether we are able to make the most out of the reality, which some of us feel is very harsh," Eitan said. "The question is whether we will do this with unrealistic aims, which will ultimately achieve nothing, or by trying to extract the possible, create a broad national consensus and make the most of the circumstances."

Beilin said the common basis is broader than it had been. He said that most of the issues had been dealt with although "not all had been agreed on."

Beilin, a candidate for the Labor Party leadership, is also the initiator of the so-called Beilin-Abu Mazen Plan, which, among other things, calls for Israel to annex the large blocs of Jewish settlements in return for giving the Palestinians an area close to the Egyptian border and a demilitarized Palestinian state with its cap-ital based in Abu Dis, just outside

National Religious Party faction chairman Hanan Porat said it was unfortunate that Eitan had volunteered to replace senior Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) in promoting such an agreement. "We didn't need Eitan to reach these agreements. It would be better if he kept silent and not spread despair around the national camp."

Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) said his faction was concerned by what it had heard of the Beilin-Eitan

"The Third Way agrees to redeployment in Hebron, but not to a general auction of Judea and Samaria and Jerusalem." he said.



Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein looks down at the Hebron market during a tour of the city yesterday. Edelstein announced yesterday that he intends to vote against the Hebron redeployment agreement.

Netanyahu struggles for right-wing's support of Hebron deal

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu worked hard yesterday to win more support from the Right for his Hebron deal, but so far he has not improved his standing among ministers, coalition MKs or the rank and file.

Likud Central Committee members yesstop because his passengers were illegal workers from the territoterday published a petition calling on the ries. The injured were taken to government "not to abandon Hebron, not Afula's Ha'emek Hospital. to allow armed Palestinian policemen Isa Tarbieh, 86, of Sakhnin, died into Hebron and not to turn over to Arafat civilian authority for the Jewish section of Wednesday night at Nahariya the city." Former prime minister Yitzhak Government Hospital of injuries Shamir heads the list of signatories; it is sustained several hours previously the first time Shamir has come out so when she was hit by a car on Sakhnin's main street. forcibly and openly against Netanyahu's

In the cabinet, Netanyahu suffered another blow when Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein announced he would vote against the agreement. Edelstein, who toured Hebron yesterday, told Channel 2 he was concerned with the small size of the buffer zone between the Palestinian and Jewish sections, and the proximity of the Avraham Avinu complex to the Hebron market, which would be reopened under Palestinian control.

Edelstein is the fifth minister to amounce his opposition to the agreement, the others are National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Science Minister

SARAH HONIG

Ze'ev Begin, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Transport Minister Yitzhak

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan and Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky have not yet committed themselves one way or the other, while Communications Minister Limor Livnat is now reported to be harboring deep teservations.

In the Knesset, National Religious Party and Likud MKs are banding together to revive the Eretz Yisrael Front as a parliamentary pressure group, especially during the next phase of the Oslo Accords.

Some of those involved, like Likud MK David Re'em, say they will join Moledet in the no-confidence motion against the government on the Hebron issue. MK Reuven Rivlin, considered a relative moderate, has also joined the group.

"The front will number some 20 MKs and will constitute a powerful enough parliamentary force which the government will be unable to ignore," Re'em said. The Likud petition also was signed by former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office Yosef Ben-Aharon.

who was a central figure in peace negotiations during the Shamir administration. Other signatories included Miniam Glazer-Tasa, Esther Salmovitz David Mena and Michael Ratson, as well as the head of the national Betar leadership Eldad Halahmi.

Netanyahu walked into the lion's den last night when he attended the opening session of the Moledet convention to which he had been invited as the gnest of honor prior to his meeting with Arafat this week and the latest moves to conclude the deal on Hebron.

Netanyahu was greeted with applause. but also plenty of boos. -

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the jack of spades, the king of hearts, the eight of

diamonds and the queen of clubs. In last night's weekly Payis Hazak

784928 won NIS 1 million while ticket 318538 was good for a new

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trawing, the holder of ticket autiliber 303378, 481820, 219936 and 063131

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Islamic Jihad terror attacks expected near Netzarim

HERB KEINON and ITIM

SECURITY sources expect the Islamic Jihad to begin a new wave of terror attacks against army installations and civilian sites in the area of Netzarim in Gaza, saying that the bombs that exploded last week on the road near Netzarim were detonated by a Jihad cell in formation.

The sources noted that terror activity in the Netzarim area had stopped once the road that passes near the settlement was closed to Palestinian traffic, after a suicide bomber rid-

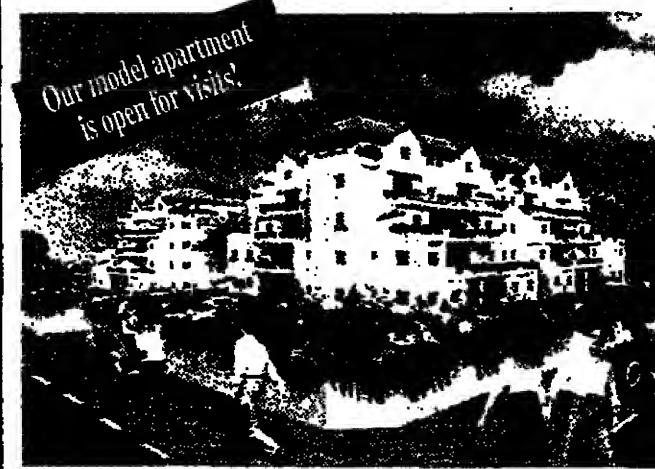
ing a bicycle killed three soldiers at the Netzarim Junction in November 1994. The road was reopened to Palestinian police vehicles, ambulance, and UN cars yesterday.

Shlomit Ziv, a spokeswoman for the settlement, said that the IDF plans to gradually open the road to all Palestinian cars, something she

said is a security risk since the road runs within 20 meters of the settlement.

Netzarim residents postponed further protest action against the opening of the road, pending the outcome of a meeting last night between the settlement's leadership and OC Southern Command May-Gen. Shlomo Yanai. Ziv said that after the meting with Yanai, the settlement's residents will meet and decide what protest action - if any - to take.

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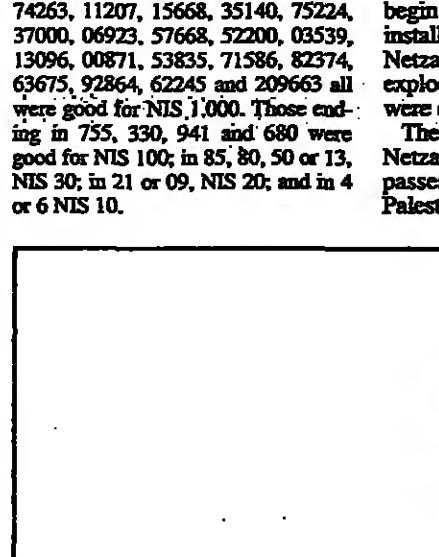
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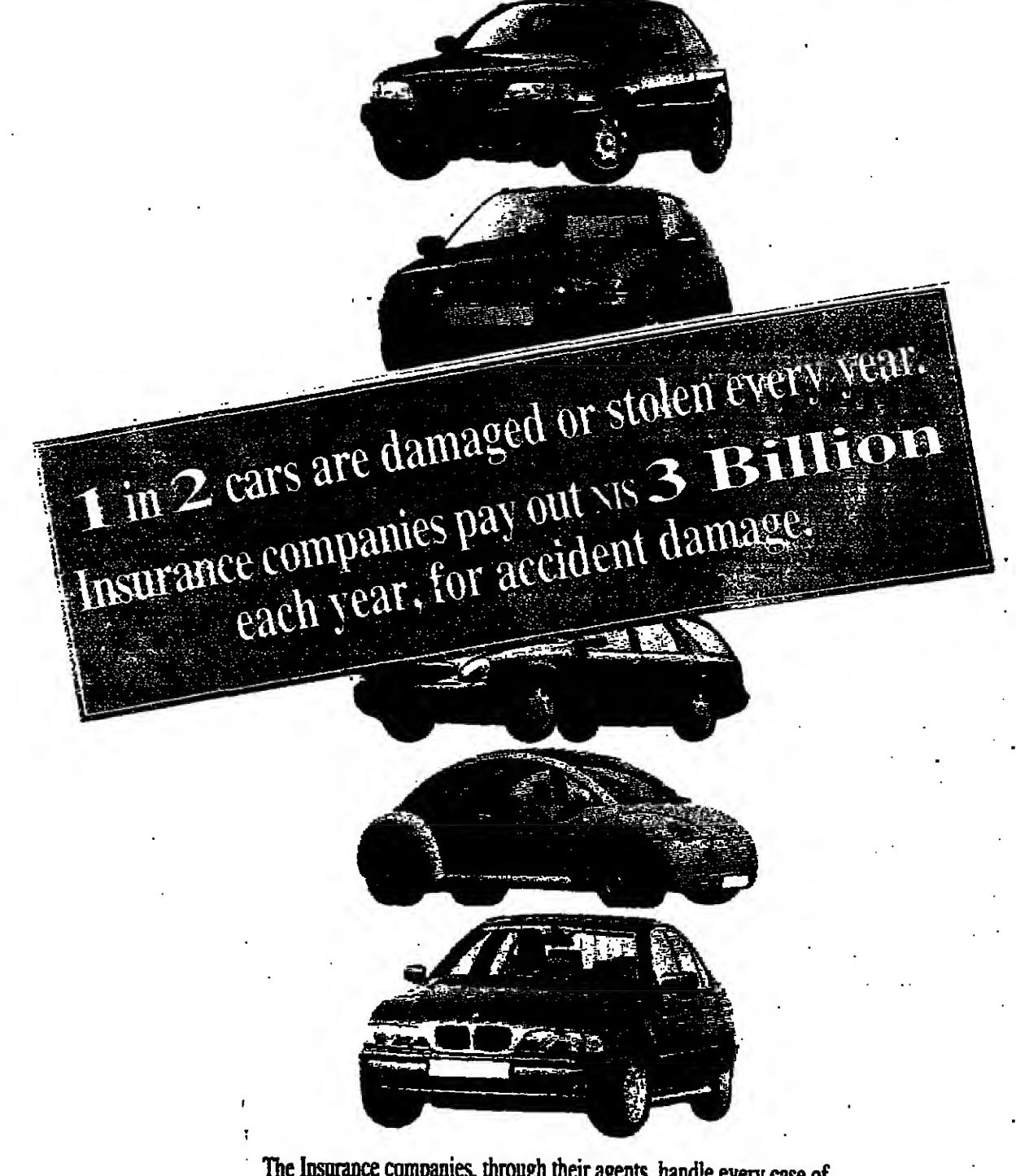


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Israel complains about Italy's pressure over Ras al-Amud

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAEL has complained to the Italian government to complain about Rome's support for a Security Council plan to dispatch a fact-finding mission to investigate construction of a Jewish neighborhood Jerusalem's Ras al-Amud neigh bortlood.

Israel has informally put the Ras al-Amud issue on hold, thus supporting its contention that this is not the time for the Security Council to get involved in the matter

Officials in Jerusalem say that the force behind the Italian govemment's involvement is Yasser Arafat, who just visited Italy. Netanyahu is expected to visit Italy and the Vatican at the end of next month.

Officials say Israel is considering raising with the Palestinians the idea of a "code of conduct," whereby the two sides would agree on ground rules of action as negotiations proceed. As is evidenced by this matter, Israel is upset that Arafat is lobbying foreign governments to oppose Israel on specific diplomatic issues

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Tuesday, December 31



Tanya Shaw, who was fired this summer from her position as nanny for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's children, speaks to the press yesterday in the Jerusalem Regional Labor Court, where she has filed suit against the Netanyahus for non-payment of overtime. The court ordered Sara Netanyahu to submit a written declaration detailing Shaw's work conditions.

State presents High Court with evidence of Malevsky's 'criminal past'

RUSSIAN businessman Anton Malevsky lied on his citizenship application when he declared that he was not wanted by the Russian authorities, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

Maleysky had petitioned the court against the Interior Ministry's decision to confiscate his passport, which was based on police intelligence information indicating that he was an organized crime kingpin. After a previous hearing, the court had given Malevsky's attorney, Yoram Sheftel, additional time to try to refute these allegations.

At yesterday's hearing, Sheftel came in with a letter from the Russian Interior Ministry's department of organized crime, which said "no charges relating to criminal activity have been attributed to [Malevsky]. against him was still standing at affacked the prosecution and the Furthermore, Sheftel said, that date, Nitzan said. police.

Malevsky has gone to Russia Malevsky repeated this lie in "The prosecution and the police several times in the past two years and he has never been detained.

Government attorney Shai Nitzan then produced a letter from a department of the same name, but with a different address, which said Malevsky was wanted in Russia for "serious crimes committed in the city of Moscow" and that an arrest war-

rant had been issued for him. Nitzan also presented a copy of the arrest warrant. The warrant, which was dated February 4. 1994, was for the illegal purchase of a TT pistol and 30 bullets. According to this document, in July 1993, a Russian court had barred Malevsky from leaving the country because of the police investigation into this charge. However, after Malevsky ignored two summonses to appear for questioning and disappeared from his previous address, the police declared him wanted and issued

an arrest warrant. A letter from the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of the Russian Federation, which Nitzan also submitted yesterday, stated that the arrest warrant had remained

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EVELYN GORDON

in force until June 27, 1996, when the police decided to close the criminal proceedings against Malevsky. On December 23, however, the Office of the Chief Prosecutor decided to overturn this decision, on the grounds that it had been made illegally, the letter said.

Finally, Nitzan said, he had received classified information on Malevsky from the Russian authorities, which he presented to the court behind closed doors.

Nitzan noted that on Malevsky's application for citizenship, in June 1994, he had claimed he was not wanted by the Russian authorities. This, however, turned out to be a false declaration, since the arrest warrant

his affidavit to the High Court, are going out of their way to pres-Nitzan added. sure the Russian authorities into

rently has no intention of trying to revoke Malevsky's citizenship he charged. because of his false statement.

Sheftel also argued that since no native-born Israeli has ever been deprived of his passport, the decision to take away Malevsky's passport constituted discrimination against immigrants.

"No one born in Israel ever got his [Israeli] citizenship via fraud," Nitzan retorted.

Sheftel then asked the court for additional time to try to refute the new evidence brought by Nitzan. Justices Tova Strasberg-Cohen, Dalia Domer and Zvi Tal said they would consider this request and get back to him with an

answer later. .After the hearing, Sheftel

However, he said, the state cur- opening criminal proceedings

against an Israeli citizen in order to retroactively justify their decision to take away his passport,"

Survey: Most people say media not objective

OVER 75% of the population say the mass media lacks objectivity when it reports on the government or on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

These figures are the results of a countrywide survey by the Community Research Institute at Bar-Ilan University. The survey also showed a widespread lack of belief (66%) in the media's objectivity in general.

The recent phone poil surveyed 1,250 adults "in a certified representative sample from Metulla to Eilat," said GRI head Ya'akov Katz, who initiated the project. According to Katz, half of those polled identified themselves as wingers and 56% of left-wingers army.

HELEN KAYE and EVELYN GORDON

right-wing and the other half identified themselves as left-wing. Breaking down the results ideologically, the survey found that 92% of right-wingers and 62% of left-wingers feel the media are not objective in their treatment of the government (77% of the population overall). Of those who said the media was not objective, 95%

the government. With regard to the media's treatment of Netanyahu, 96% of right-

of right-wingers and 79% of left-wingers said the bias was against

consider the media to be nonobjective (76% overall). Of these, 96% of right-wingers and 80% of left-wingers thought the bias was against the prime minister.

The poll also asked whether the media reported objectively on the IDF and other security forces in the territories. Overall, 31% of the respondents thought the media was objective, while 17% were undecided. The 52% who said the media was not objective included 69% of the right-wingers surveyed and 35% of the leftwingers. Of these, 88% of rightwingers and 64% of left-wingers thought the bias was against the

Bone-marrow drive for London student begins next week

A BONE-MARROW testing drive will be held ou Tuesday in Jerusalem and Ramat Gan to try to save the life of David Brown, a 27-year-old Jewish economics student from London. A suitable match is more likely to be found among Jews of Ashkenazi origin, according to the organizers from Kedma, a religious students' organization in Jerusalem.

Brown, who has taken a leave of absence from his studies at Thames Valley University to undergo chemotherapy, suffers from acute lymphoblastic leukemia and his condition is deteriorating. No tissue matches have been found in any of the bone-marrow registries in Israel or abroad, so more samples must be collected. Thousands of people in Britain and the US already have been tested as potential donors for Brown, but none was found to be a perfect match.

Kedma, along with Magen David Adom, the Sue Harris Foundation and Bnei Akiva, hope thousands of

healthy people aged 18 to 50 will volunteer to give a small amount of blood for tissue-type matching. If a person is found to be a suitable match, a teaspoonful of marrow is removed under anesthetic from a bone in the hip and transfused into the recipient. This could bolster Brown's immune system and cure him. Anyone whose blood is tested will be listed in a bone-marrow registry, possibly to be matched with some other needy person

The organizers are raising money for the collection of samples and their testing, while El Al will fly them free to England for processing.

Volunteers willing to give a blood sample should go on Tuesday to Magen David Adom's Jerusalem branch in Romema between 2 and 9 p.m. or to Bar-Ilan University's chemistry building from 3 to 7 p.m. Information may be obtained by calling Kedma at (02)

A needle in a haystack

ALTHOUGH the chance of finding a perfect match for David Brown is on a par with looking for a needle in a haystack, previous bone-marrow drives here and abroad have saved the lives of at least two Jews suffering from leukemia.

One, Jay Feinberg of the US, waited several years before a suitable donor was found. It was a young woman, officially a bit too young to donate and who was found after tens of thousands of people were tested. She insisted on having a blood sample taken from her arm and sent for testing - and in the end, she was the best match.

Feinberg, who received a tiny bit of her bone marrow, is now healthy enough to have returned to work as an economist. Sue Harris, a British woman for whom a similar campaign was held here, found a donor and is now doing well.

Because similar ethnic origins have an important role in determining tissue compatibility, many Diaspera Jews who cannot finda suitable donor abroad seek one here...,

Judy Siegel

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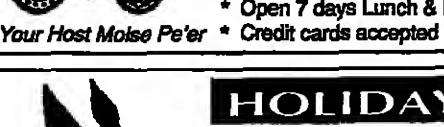
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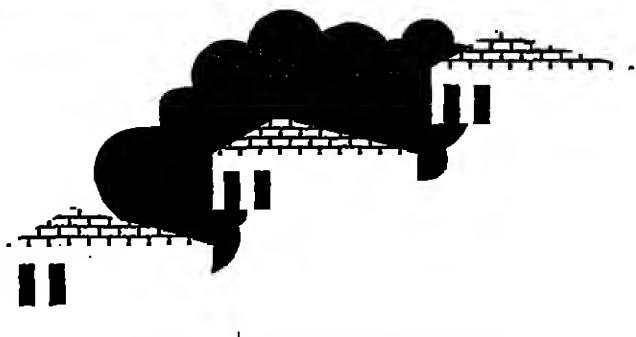
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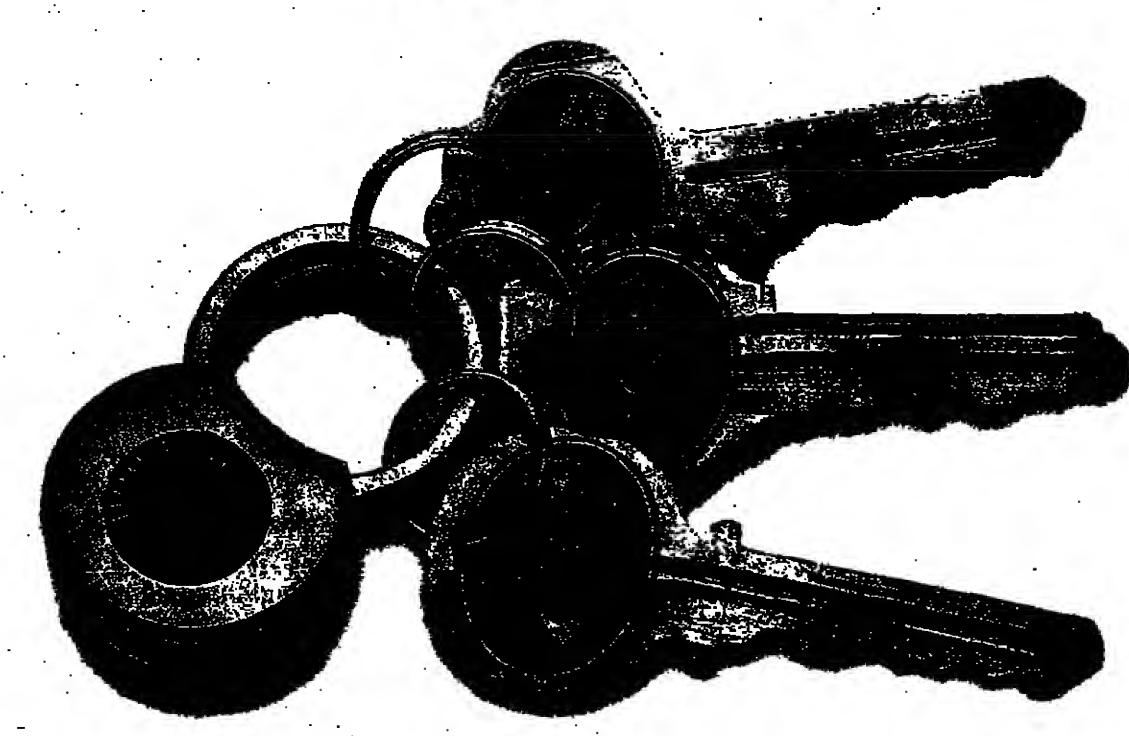
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Family politics

HE concept of the "First Family" is a peculiarly American one, imported to Israel by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. The fact that Netanyahu has showcased his family in political settings does not, however, grant license to the media to make fun of a five-year-old child.

In the past week, two of Israel's premier satirical programs. Hartzufini on Channel 2 and The Cameri Quintet on Channel 1, included skits spoofing Yair Netanyahu, the prime minister's five-year-old son. The Harroufim skit portrayed Netanyahu trying to demonstrate that Yair's namy was not a foreign worker by having Yair sing Adon Olam - with a thick Dutch accent. The Cameri Quintet skit showed Yair trying to persuade his bodyguard to threaten a girl who was calling him names.

The prime minister's spokesman, Shai Bazak, responded by shooting off a letter to the heads of the two television authorities charging, "... this is an unprecedented low. It is legitimate to criticize the prime minister and his policies, but attacking a five-year-old child crosses an ethical and human line that must not be crossed." There were signs of second thoughts at Channel 2, which removed the segment portraying Yair Netanyahu when the Hartzufim program was replayed a few days later. Harryfim editor Avi Cohen said that, "I think it was a mistake. The minute I saw it on the screen, I said to myself, oops, mistake, sorry. The critics are right. We shouldn't have involved the boy."

The dominant media reaction, however, has been the equivalent of the schoolyard rant, "You started it!" Channel 2 director-general Uzi Peled said, "... I respect [the criticisms], but I am amazed that it was legitimate to use the boy during the election campaign, but it is not right to use the character of the boy in a satirical program, where red lines must be very rare."

It is true that during and since the election, the Netanyahu family has appeared together at public events and on official trips to a degree unprecedented in Israeli politics, in an attempt own First Family.

....In the US, the tradition that Americans effectively elect a First Family when they elect their president, is a time-honored one. The roots of this tradition probably lie in another uniquely American preoccupation - the character of their elected officials, particularly the president.

American children grow up on stories of George Washington and the cherry tree ("I cannot tell a lie") and "Honest Abe" Lincoln. Over the years, the focus on character became the downfall of certain candidates, such as when Senator Gary Hart was forced out of the Democratic primaries after being caught with a mistress.

In most other countries, the personal life of elected leaders is often a subject of interest or amusement, but not a major factor in determining votes. This may, ironically, be becoming true in the United States, where President Bill Clinton was reelected handily even though his opponent, was considered more "rustworthy," according to polls.

Given that even Americans seem to be getting tired of choosing their leaders on the basis of personal behavior, it is odd that Netanyahu would try to introduce the character factor into Israel politics by projecting a "family man" image. Nor is it clear that Israelis care about the family life of the prime minister when it comes making choices in the voting booth. Indeed, many people believe that there is not much correlation between leadership ability and personal morality. A quick survey of the world's most successful and beloved world leaders would probably confirm this intuition.

What is more, the mixture of personal and political often rebounds to the detriment of those who try it. As President Ezer Weizman has found out, public figures lose the right to express "personal" opinions; anything they say automatically reflects the office they represent, whether they like it or not.

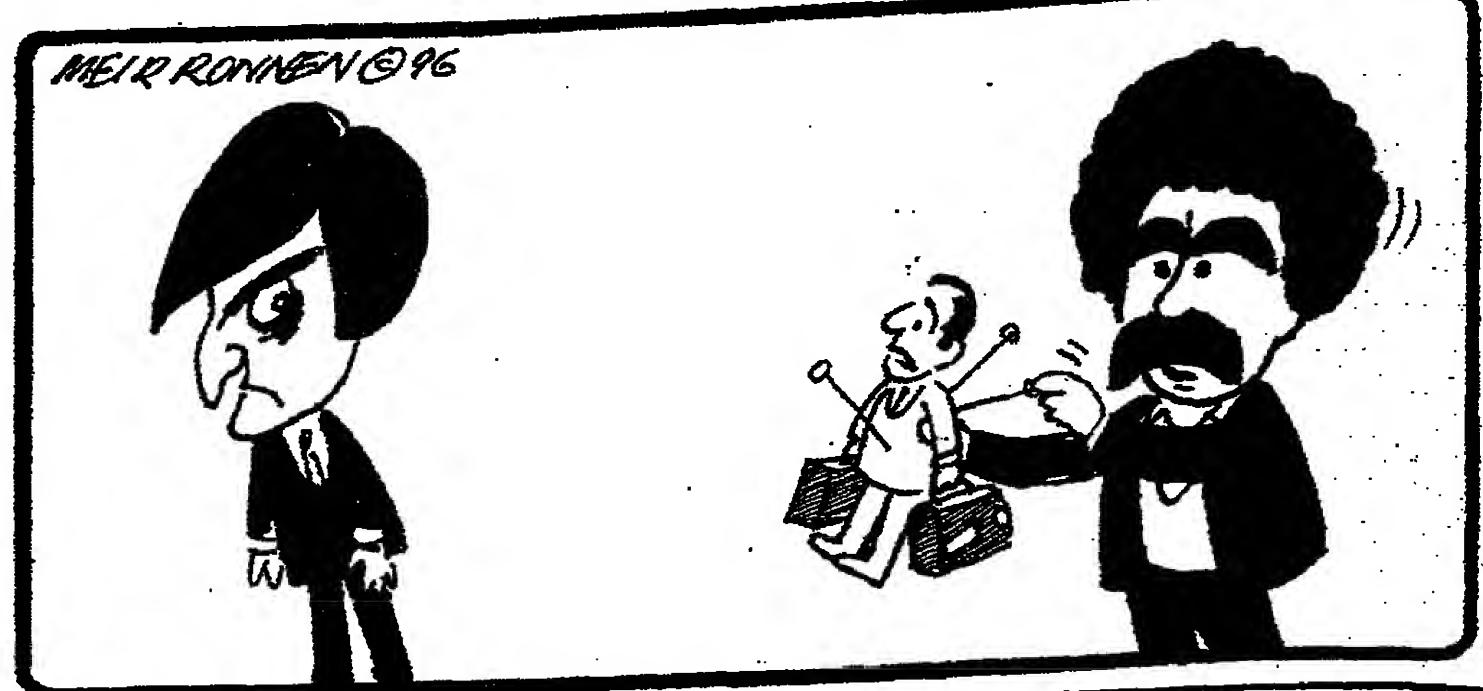
During the Korean War, US President Harry Truman wrote a scathing letter to a Washington Post music critic who had panned his daughter Margaret's performance at Constitution Hall. Truman wrote, "Someday I hope to meet you. When that happens you'll need a new nose, a lot of beefsteak for black eyes, and perhaps a supporter below!" The letter leaked to the press, and Truman was pilloried for his uncouth language and for concerning himself with his daughter's music career while Americans were fighting abroad.

Truman explained himself privately by saying that he had the right to be two people, the president and himself. While it may be natural for leaders to feel that way, most people will not grant them that luxury.

by the premier, or so it seems, to create Israel's ... At the same time, most people will also agree it is wrong for the media to involve a small child in political satire. Surprisingly, some media figures have argued that this could not be helped because the prime minister had already exposed his children to the press. This logic paints a picture of media culture that these same figures would normally be the first to reject; a picture of a profession with no sense of limits and self-control:

This past week's satirical skits will, unintentionally, have served their purpose if they help induce both sides, the prime minister and the media, to take the family out of politics. This is one American import that Israel could just as well do without.

'Don't you feel something?'



The onion-like Hebron issue

MARK HELLER

INCE the government's stated rationale for renegotiating the redeployment from Hebron was to correct the alleged defects in the original agreement, the debate over Hebron 2 will logically focus on the question of whether it is really a new and

improved version. To be fair, the details have not yet been revealed, but enough is already known to suggest that government apologists will have a hard time pointing to any substantial changes for the better, either

in security or civil matters. The addition of a small buffer zone between the Israeli and Palestinian-controlled areas of the city may be considered a slight gain, but the major "flaws" that the government demanded to revise have not been fixed.

There is no provision for hot pursuit, apart from a reference to the existing arrangements stipulated in the original interim agreement and already in effect in other areas under Palestinian control. and there are no new limitations on the weapons to be carried by the Palestinian Police.

In fact, if reports that Palestinian Police in the buffer zones will be equipped with Ingram submachine guns are true, this is arguably a setback, since the original agreement only provided for pistols and 100 rifles "for the protection of [police] stations."

On balance, the new agreement is virtually indistinguishable from the old one. Pressed to explain the differences, Dennis Ross suggested that Hebron 2 adds details to the principles and general guidelines of Hebron 1.

Ross is a consummate diplomat who understands that this chapter cannot be brought to a close

unless face is saved on both sides. and he provided the only possible formula that could gratify

Binyamin Netanyahu without

embarrassing Yasser Arafat. These details will not impress most opponents of the original redeployment agreement, and certainly not the settlers.

What matters is that they were negotiated by a Likud prime min-

taken into account, the picture is quite different, because the delayed redeployment and protracted negotiations have had an extremely negative effect on Israel's regional and international stature, with all this implies for its bargaining position in the future.

If the result had been a clearly superior arrangement in Hebron itself, the cost in political capital

If Netanyahu doesn't deal with what lies beneath the top layer, there could be much to cry about later

ister, and this will enable enough cabinet ministers, coalition Knesset members and Likud voters to convince themselves that what was unacceptable before is acceptable now.

With the support of the opposition, Hebron 2 will therefore go through without much trouble, the redeployment will take place, and the effect in Hebron itself will be more or less the same as that envisaged in the original agree-

In short, nothing lost and nothing gained, at least at first glance.

BUT FIRST glances are misleading, for the Hebron issue is like an onion, with many layers, and confining the debate to the immediate consequences for Hebron itself ignores the effect on the other layers, which include the broader fabric of Israeli- Palestinian. Israeli-Arab. aлd Israeli-American relations.

When all these elements are

and human lives might perhaps have been justified. But it was obvious from the outset (and not just in retrospect) that the redeployment plan would be neither canceled nor significantly modi-Indeed, the great mystery in all

of this remains whether the prime

minister really expected a different outcome and, if so, why. What did he believe would be accomplished by demonstratively refusing even to meet Arafat for almost three months? Certainly, he was entitled to

some grace period to get his administration in order and clarify his policy priorities, though he showed no hesitation in meeting Mubarak or King Hussein.

If the strategy was to fight hard over relatively marginal and unpromising issues in order to establish a reputation for toughness and lower Palestinian expectations about what might be accomplished in the post-Hebron

environment, there may be something to commend the decision to reopen the negotiations.

But Netanyahu's determination to continue demanding the unartainable in the face of mounting costs suggests a worrisome inability to assess the overall relations of power, as opposed to those in the narrow Israeli-Palestinian axis, just as it substitutes a narrow focus on tactical military issues for a comprehensive view of national security.

In the after-action analysis that should follow the Hebron redeployment, it will be important to reassess the processes of policy formulation and decision-making that characterized the approach to. Hebron since the election.

In particular, it will be vital to abandon ideological blinders and lingering nostalgia for the fairyland of the election campaign and come to grips with the real focus of the permanent-status negotia-

As even many of the prime minister's own colleagues and partners now acknowledge, this is no longer the ideological or campaign-slogan question of whether or not there should be a Palestinian state, but rather the realpolitik question of its territori-

al extent and functional authority If the lesson learned from the Hebron negotiations is to take proper account of all layers of the onion, then the experience, however costly, may yet prove useful. If not, then the troubles of the past few months will be a mere prelude to far more serious upheavals down the road.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE "NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC"

Sir. - I am writing in reference to the commentary you published on November 29 in your newspaper, titled "National Geographic should stay out of politics," by Andrea Levin.

categorically reject the notion that National Geographic has "espousing anti-Israeli themes" in its coverage of the Middle East.

Our magazine is not anti-Israel. Nor is it "pro"-Israel, or anti-Arab, or pro-Arab. We are, however, well aware that the stories we publish will not always be popular, especially on topics as emotionally charged as Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. We receive many letters from readers on every story we publish, including those on the Middle East, and they

Sir, - David Makovsky (News Analysis, December 17) asserts that President Clinton "has repeatedly proven his friendship for Israel." How does Makovsky's

Clinton's actual record? Clinton administration never publicly criticizes the PLO for its constant violations of the Oslo accords. It never condemns Yasser Arafat for making "jihad" speeches. It never even acknowledged that the PLO was to blame

characterization compare with

for the September riots. Clinton's envoys. chiefly Secretary of State Christopher, have constantly sought to curry favor

THE LETTER

Sir. - Eight former high officials I would like to ask these gentleof the US government have sent a men if they have ever heard or letter to Israel urging it not to read any of Arafat's Arabic expand settlements and also urgspeeches since Oslo? They are full ing Arabs and Israelis not to take of hate and talk of jihad.

hand, often with opposing points usually reflect opinion on all sides of a given issue. Clearly, it is of view; we also double- and impossible to please everyone. triple-check every statement of But we have noticed over the fact that appears in our stories for years the charge of editorial bias is accuracy. Those facts are subject usually made most vehemently by to interpretation, of course. That is those with a strong bias of their the nature of the printed word. But the facts themselves, and the context in which they appear, are pre-Rather than embracing any political agenda, we will continue sented honestly and fairly.

to publish articles that are as close Ms. Levin is entitled to her opinto objective, fair and accurate as ion, of course. But we would expect that most readers in search of the truth, including our 15,181 To my knowledge, no magazine valued National Geographic in the world goes to greater lengths than National Geographic Society members in Israel, would to establish that what we publish prefer to read the stories in quesis responsible, correct and free of tion and form their own opinion. WILLIAM L. ALLEN.

Not only do we submit these Editor. stories for general review to emi-National Geographic Magazine nent experts in the subjects at Washington, D.C.

CLINTON'S RECORD

we can make them.

editorial bias,

with Syria and have consistently Dole-Kyl bill to recognize refrained from putting meaningful Jerusalem and establish the US pressure on Syria to stop Hizbullah, embassy there. (The bill was The Clinton administration conpassed by Congress anyway and it tinues to punish Israel for spendbecame law without his signature.) ing funds in the Old City of The US has repeatedly refrained Jerusalem, deducting the amount from voting anti-Israel resolutions of money that Israel spends there in the UN Security Council. each year from the US loan guar-The Clinton administration con-

antees that it receives. When he visited Israel last year, President Clinton refused to allow his official welcome to take place in Jerusalem (prompting President Weizman and Jerusalem Mayor Olmert to boycott the welcome ceremony at Ben-Gurion Airport). President Clinton opposed the

Rabin to let them return earlier than scheduled. HERBERT ZWEIBON, Chairman, Americans for a Safe Israel

demned Prime Minister Rabin's

deportation of Hamas terrorist

leaders in 1992 and pressured

Has any of these eight ever asked Arafat why he has never negated his stated promise of advancing slice by slice until Israel is ripe for destruction?

An Arab valve to ease the pressure **ELIYAHU KANOVSKY**

N response to terror attacks, the government, under both Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, sharply restricted the number of work permits allowing Palestinians to work in Israel. During recent years there have also been periods of complete or almost complete closure of the territories.

The number of Palestinians working in Israel, legally or otherwise, fell from a peak of 180,000 in 1987 to 80,000 in 1996, while the number of non-Palestinian foreigners working here reached 250,000, including illegals.

Undersecretary Commerce Stuart Eizenstadt, visiting Israel this past August, urged Prime Minister Netanyahu to expel illegal foreign workers and make room for many more Palestinians. "There's a pressure cooker heat-

ing up in the territories," he cautioned. In other words, the deteriorating Palestinian economy spells danger for Israel.

Terje Larsen, who served as UN coordinator for the Palestinian Authority, also stressed the need to "radically increase" the number of Palestinians working in Israel. He too argued that increasing the number of Palestinians working in Israel was compatible with Israel's security.

He estimated that each Palestinian worker supports 10 people (directly and indirectly), and every 10,000 workers employed in Israel provide about \$20m. in annual tax revenues for the PA.

In 1995, he estimated, overall losses to the Palestinians as a result of closures and curtailed work permits were \$600m, or the equivalent of total aid pledged to the PA by the US, Europe, and

Implicitly the US and other aidgivers have little hope that "real" jobs will soon be created by the PA, that is, excluding the PA's overblown "civil service" and the multiplicity of security force and various make-work jobs.

Three years ago, with the signing of the Oslo accords, there was optimism that regional economic cooperation buttressed by assistance from the advanced industrialized countries, plus the reallocation of resources from military to civilian pursuits would stimulate a

some 600,000 mostly Palestinians with Jordanian passports. In addition, the Arab oil states cut off financial aid to the PLO and Jordan. These measures were in retribution for Yasser Arafat's and King Hussein's siding with Iraq. Before the 1990-91 war some

300,000 Palestinians-Jordanians worked in the Gulf states, largely in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The Palestinians from the autonomous areas also lost their jobs in the Gulf states. Following the sharp increase in

Instead of Israel taking greater security risks, the Gulf States can surely find room to employ 100,000 Palestinians

regional boom, attracting a grow-oil prices in 1973-74, and in 1979ing stream of private investors. The boom would raise incomes. reduce unemployment, and the Middle East would prosper.

But the reality has been entirely different The PA's GNP has declined sharply, unemployment has soared, and many more Palestinians suffer from poverty.

The debacle stems mainly from the PA's grossly inefficient and corrupt governance, and from adverse economic policies. Unemployment and poverty in the PA areas intensifies the pressure on Israel to allow the entry of many more Palestinian workers.

BUT THERE is a viable alternative: jobs in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait

In the aftermath of the Gulf war Kuwait and Saudi Arabia expelled

80, the Saudis and other rich Arab Gulf states went on a spending spree. The demand for labor rose exponentially and foreigners from the poor Arab and Asian countries flocked to Saudi Arabia. By the mid-1980s foreign labor numbered 2.7 million, accounting for 60 percent of the total Saudi labor. force.

The sharp drop in oil prices in the mid-1980s slowed down the growth of the foreign labor force, but did not curtail its growth completely. In 1992 there were 12.3 million nationals in Saudi Arabia plus 4.6 million foreigners. In 1989 there were about three million foreign workers (aside from accompanying family members) in Saudi Arabia and about the same number in 1995.

In other words Saudi develop-

ment plans since 1980, which call for a steady decline in the number of foreign workers have, in practice, been ignored. The Saudi need for millions of foreign workers is long term.

Following the liberation from Iraq in 1991, the Kuwaiti government ordered the mass expulsion of some 450,000 Palestinians.

They have been replaced largely by Asians. According to the 1995 census there were 656,000 Kuwaitis and 920,000 foreigners in Kuwait. With respect to employment the disproportion. was far greater - some 820,000 foreigners as compared with 163,000 Kuwaitis.

Clearly, the continuing longterm discrimination against the employment of Palestinians in the Arab Gulf states is of far greater magnitude than Israel's sporadic closures and curtailing of work permits following terrorist attacks.

The US, in particular, should urge the Saudis and Kuwaitis to let bygones be bygones and allow a far larger number of Palestinians to work in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Within the context of three million foreigners working in Saudi Arabia and 820,000 in Kuwait plus hundreds of thousands of Asians working in the other Arab Gulf States - there is surely room for 100,000 currently unemployed Palestinian workers.

It is senseless and unjustified to ask Israel to take even greater risks with its security, while richer Arab states favor Asians over Palestinians.

The writer is a member of the department of economics and senior research associate at Bar-Ilan University's BESA Center.

Goodbye, sanity

ODAY I will be one of a group of concerned experts trying to persuade the State Comptroller's Office that the risk assessments provided. by Highway No. 6 planners grossly underestimate the dangers.

Highway No. 6 will asphalt the Zionist dream. It is the centerpiece of a failed transportation policy that wages war against israel's environment, economy, landscape, social fabric, air quality, health and safety. If it goes ahead, what can we expect?

· We can expect it to bring the chaos and sprawl of Los Angeles. Mexico City and Cairo. Our children will curse those who squandered environmental capital for this exercise in megalomania and self-destruction.

More roads actually induce traffic congestion. The touted cure for traffic jams may be their prime cause. Like the fact that the world isn't flat, this truth takes time to sink in, for those who don't want to know.

A British Royal Commission and American mathematicians have shown that new roads generate 10 percent more usage than the capacity they were planned for, feeder roads into cities clog up even more. This means that Highway No. 6 will create ever larger traffic jams in peak hours of use, and lethal speeds in offhours — and demands for more roads. The Netherlands has stopped building new roads in an effort to halt this cycle.

• We can expect politicians to plunder the Treasury for a new cycle of asphalt contracts. Highway No. 6 will give Israel the world's highest ratios of vehicles per square kilometer within a decade. We already have too many cars.

· We can say goodbye to an integrated mass transit system of trains, buses, taxis, minibuses and, yes, bicycles. Highways result in a dilution of population density in urban centers and make mass transit solutions an economic impossibility. This is the geography of "emptying out space," making somewhere into nowhere.

• We can expect migration out of the big cities, leaving them depleted, with a shrinking tax base and a worsening poverty gap, the seeds of polarization and social unrest.

The economic burdens of Southern California's asphaltthe contract of the

ELIHU D. RICHTER

based transportation policy helped move that state in the direction of a Third World social structure, shrinking support for education, health, and social ser-

Highway No 6's debts, though private, will be guaranteed by governmental cost-plus guarantees to its overseas investors. The poor will pay for these bail-outs with reduced social services.

• We can expect worsening relative mobility for the poor. This means less access to jobs through

Highway No. 6 is an exercise in self-destruction

cheap rapid transit. We already have the anti-social policy of raising bus fares. Expressways have been recognized by social scientists as a prime cause of alienation, urban decay, slums, riots and violence among those left behind in the inner cities.

· In Israel, we can expect violent riots among the abandoned poor - Israelis and the more than 100,000 foreign workers living in southern Tel Aviv. We will have gone from oranges to A Clockwork Orange.

 We can expect more funerals from Highway No. 6. It is aptly numbered: Its planners admit it will produce increases in travel speeds of 6 percent on other interurban roads. Small rises in travel speeds translate into much larger increases in road deaths.

But Highway No. 6 is planning 120 kph limits. The epidemic of deaths from truck crashes will worsen. That means some 75 more deaths per year, or 750 per

FOLLOWING the 1993 raise of the speed limit on fast roads to 100 kph, the general road death toll jumped by 40-60 annually. Drivers became hooked on speed; crash severity jumped. Israel is the only Western country with a rise, in absolute numbers, of its road death toll in the last five years - from 428 in 1990 to 550 in

 We can expect ascending highway maintenance costs. Are with control and the relation makes

Highway No 6's owners prepared to build fail-safe earthquake safeguards on the cloverleafs of Highway No. 6? Or will they cut corners to save on costs? Maintenance costs have been shown to be related exponentially (to the fifth power or more) to the weight of trucks. Who will pay?

· We can expect deterioration in quality, especially in Jerusalem, from the eastward drift of vehicle pollutants. Jerusalem is already seeing more asthma and brouchitis from urban air pollution in the young, the old and the sensitive. We can expect more carbon monoxide, diesel emissions, ozone, and more heart and chest disease. Eastward drift of air pollution will cause political friction with Jordan and the Palestinian Authority.

· We can expect a worsening balance of payments. Excessive dependence on private motor vehicle transit means more outlays for car imports, spare parts, and fuel.

· We can expect more abuse of legal rights to private property using overly coercive legal methods. Land designated for the railway was taken for the Ben-Shemen overpass. Highway No. 6 is literally highway robbery.

· We can say goodbye to the landscape of the prophets. Instead, there will be eight-lane asphalt highways and cloverleafs. We will leave our children with a landscape they will detest. This government will be remembered for allowing it to happen.

So? Let's stop building roads, like in the Netherlands. Let's use mass transit and cut highway spending to sustain economic growth. Let's redesign Highway No. 6 to be the North-South rapid train system connecting the Galilee with Eilar.

Let's invest in comfortable firstclass buses with mobile telephones. Let's copy successful role models from Northern Europe.

Israel is too small to squander its resources on this exercise in megalomania. There will be no second chance. Let's stop Highway 6 now. It's five minutes to midnight.

The writer, an epidemiologist, is Head of the Betts Program in Injury Prevention at Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

foreign countries, especially to

counteract the tactical advantages

which the dictatorial regimes of

our Arab enemies enjoy in this

regard. But there is absolutely no

justification for a directly-elected

prime minister having the power

to railroad through major changes

A prime minister should lead;

but the decision on whether the

country takes the slippery slope to

economic Thatcherism, for exam-

ple, or decides on the wisdom or

extent of privatizationn should be

decided by an independently-

In an unguarded moment,

Netanyahu mumbled something

about his tackling, with the aid of

that other giant of political theory Avigdor Lieberman, the problems

of constitutional and Supreme

Court reform. This is clearly a

field where the prime minister and

his minions should be told to keep

The Likud MKs whose inter-

ests were so coldly sacrificed by

Netanyahu in his rush to a per-

sonal electoral victory should be

the first to retaliate and stand up

for a more independent and

powerful Knesset. True, the

prime minister should provide

the leadership a diverse Knesset

cannot. But leadership, more

than ever before, must be by

persuasion and by the knack of

putting together diverse ad-hoc

coalitions in support of various

The writer comments on public

in domestic policies.

minded Knesset.

their hands off.

policies.

screen and press the "Yes" button you will be given a lethal dose of medication and die? Yes/No Are you certain you understand that if you proceed and press the "Yes" button

go ahead to the last

will die? Yes/No In 15 seconds you will be given a lethal injection.

on the next screen you

HIS is not the ultimate in demonic computer games, but a legal, computer-aided euthanasia package developed in Darwin, Australia, by Dr. Philip Nitschke and computer technician Des Came.

After telling their doctor that they wish to die, mentally stable terminal patients who wish to use the package must wait seven days before signing a death request certificate. Two doctors with at least five years' experience, one with a diploma in psychiatry, must earlier have diagnosed the patient as terminally ill and beyond medical help. The patient must then wait a further 48 hours before the equipment is provided.

package. "Deliverance," includes a lethal dose of barbiturates which is administered to the patient at the. conclusion of the program, after he has passed through the various stages intended to ensure his

Legislation in Holland, the US and the Northern Territory in Australia has sanctioned euthanasia (with various safeguards) in a variety of circumstances including cases of babies with birth defects, patients in long-term comas, and those with dementia and terminal illnesses.

Faced by an incurable patient in the terminal stages of illness many doctors find themselves powerless. Alone and without clear legal guidelines, they face the dilemma: Should I connect him up to resuscitative equipment, or let him die? The question of who should

decide on cuthanasia - facilitating or permitting the death of such people - in Israel came up recently in the Knesset Labor and Social

Euthanasia: Who plays God? Are you aware that if you **JEREMY MAISSEL**

Affairs Committee.

The chairman, Gesher's Maxim Levy, said that in the absence of clear legal guidelines doctors should not be liable to police investigation. Added Levy: "The law should be made only on the basis of general agreement."

Most of the speakers, including Health Ministry Director-General Prof. Gabi Barabash and of whether or not to prolong life should be taken out of doctors' hands and made subject to a

clearer law. The issue came into public focus here in November, when police

emotive and deeply personal, and viewpoints expressed on the theoretical level have often changed when those holding them have been faced with a specific case, or one involving a close relative. It is the physician's duty to relieve suffering - yet he is also

obliged to preserve and protect life. Sometimes the two appear to Chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar; the part of the Hippocratic oath

agreed that the weighty decision which reads "I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest any such counsel" to refer only to premeditated murder and not euthanasia.

their say in the debate. The pre-

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Doctors should not be forced to wrestle with society's moral dilemmas

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began an investigation into two alleged mercy killings at Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital.

Police claim that the doctors concerned did not act to prolong the patients' lives. The doctors countered that these were not mercy killings, adding that the decision not to connect their terminal patients up to resuscitative equipment was one doctors regu-

THE euthanasia debate is as old as medicine itself, and its consequences reflect on the whole of society. But the arguments are not solely medical, and what legislation there is has been based on medical, ethical, legal and reli-

gious considerations. The subject matter is highly

dominant Jewish doctrine is pikuah nefesh, which values life so highly that for the sake of saving a life all Jewish religious laws are automatically suspended, the only exceptions being idolatry, illicit sexual relations and murder.

In Halacha any positive act designed to hasten the death of a patient is equated with murder, even if death is hastened only by moments. None but the Creator, who bestows the gift of life, may relieve man of it, even when that life has become a

Religious pressure is thought to be behind the removal of a clause intended to clarify the enthanasia issue in the Patients' Rights Law passed earlier this year. The religious parties would rather let the ambiguity remain than produce a clear law that contravenes Halacha.

Doctors' expertise in diagnosis and treatment methods make them the most indispensable participants in the euthanasia debate. However, where society's moral stand is in question, doctors have neither the training nor the authority to decide the issue for all of us. Doctors' work is difficult enough without their being forced dilemmas. Society must not expose them to a situation where they are forced to "play God" without adequate guidance. Or, if they are to bear such responsibility, they must be given the authority to act without fear of prosecu-

It's not hard to understand why euthanasia still inhabits a grey area. It's an agonizing issue. Yet society must clarify it through the democratic process, in the Knesset, in consultation with religious figures and lay moral philosophers.

We need to protect our doctors. They should not be exposed to sitnations where fear of making the wrong decision could compromise their medical expertise.

Even with guiding legislation, doctors will still be the ones on the spot to study the medical data, appraise the prognosis, consider the wishes of the patients and their families and make the decisions.

Doctors have enough life-anddeath decisions to make. Society must finally grit its teeth and deal, unambiguously, with an issue it has thus far preferred to skirt.

The writer, a religious educator, is a member of Kibbutz Alumim.

An opening shot

HE revolt of the Knesset Finance Committee earlier this week forced the government to back down from major aspects of its proposed 1997 budget. It was reported primarily as a defeat for Prime Minister Netanyahu and Finance Minister Meridor and a victory for David Levy, his Gesher faction and the other members of the Knesset's social lobby.

But it was something else very significant. It constituted an opening shot in the battle to realign the balance of power between the Knesset, the prime minister and the executive, following the transition of our political system to direct election of the prime minis-

Seven months after the elections the yerdict is not yet in on whether the direct election reform has succeeded or failed. As a longtime supporter of that reform I admit it has been a failure on one count not foreseen during the debate on the law: the problematic — to use a vast understatement — types of . candidates for the premiership it seems to attract and abet.

Neither Netanyahu nor his seeming Labor clone, Ehud Barak, have political records to speak of. What the two do share is the monumental hutzpa of aspiring to be catapulted to the premiership on the basis of their steamroller organizational and fund-raising abilities, and the . unsubstantiated claim that they alone can win for their respective

Under the previous system the Knesset was nearly always a rubber stamp for the government. Clearly, directly electing our premier strengthens the holder of that office significantly vis-a-vis his cabinet ministers, and particularly vis-a-vis Knesset

The basic weakness of the parliamentary system in general is that the government, which should be subservient to the sovereign parliament, actually lords it over parliament because the cabinet is comprised of the leaders of the majority party or coalition parties

YOSEF GOELL

which control parliament. In Israel that basic weakness was writ large. Governments were occasionally toppled by votes of no-confidence in the Knesset when one or more parties deserted a coalition, but it was very rare for a government to lose a substantive

MORE specifically, the Finance Committee never dared to flout the will of the government and of the Treasury when it came to annual budget proposals. The sort

This week's budget revolt in the Knesset Finance Committee should serve as the basis for a new

division of powers

of budget revolt we witnessed in the Finance Committee this week is unprecedented in this country's parliamentary history. Now that the precedent has been established, albeit messily, it should be expanded and serve as the basis for a new division of powers.

Direct popular election of the prime minister was a necessary reform to reestablish the legitimacy of the holder of that position. This does not mean that a directly-elected premier should be given the power of a virtual dictator to decide independently on policies in authoritarian

The voters should decide who will be prime minister, what he should or should not be permitted to do should be subject to the approval of the equally-popularly

elected Knesset. A case can certainly be made for measure of prime ministerial independence in the conduct of early stages of negotiations with

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Car bomb kills seven in Algiers suburb PARIS (Reuter) - A car bomb exploded near a paramilitary gendarmes' station in a working-class suburb of Algiers yesterday, killing seven people and wounding scores of others.

Most of the victims were civilians, including passengers of a bus which took the full force of the blast, Algiers residents said. Algerian security forces, in a statement carried by the official Algerian news agency APS, said the bomb exploded in the suburb of Hussein Dey at about 1.50 p.m., killing seven and wounding 68. Algiers residents said the car bomb exploded near a gendarmes'

It was the second deadly car-bomb attack in the Algerian capital in four days, and the fifth this month.

Hutu rebels kill four soldiers

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (AP) - Hutu rebels, who declared a unilateral 11-day cease-fire earlier in the week, killed four soldiers and wounded four civilians in a Christmas Eve attack, an army spokesman said yesterday.

Speaking to the independent radio Studio Ijambo, Col. Isaie Nibizi said the deaths occurred during three separate ambushes in southern Bururi province. Nibizi said the Tutsi-led army killed 13

Nibizi also said the army had for the first time arrested an officer in the field and charged him with murder in connection with the deaths of 79 civilians in a December 16-17 attack in the same

On Monday, rebels belonging to the Council for the Defense of Democracy declared an 11-day holiday truce but said they would fight back if attacked by the army. It was not immediately possible to determine whether the rebels broke their truce or were attacked.

Troops move into riot-torn Indonesian town JAKARTA (Reuter) - Hundreds of Indonesian troops moved into a riot-tom town in western Java late yesterday after a mob set fire to commercial buildings and churches, residents and military officials said.

"The situation is still tense. We hope we will get it under control," an officer in the battered town of Tasikmalaya, about 200 km southeast of Jakarta, said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or arrests. The mob estimated by police and residents at around 5,000 people, many of them youths, was apparently incensed by reports that police had beaten a religious teacher and his two students. "Yes, the rioting is connected to that case," a Tasikmalaya police

official said. The army officer said at around 9 p.m. that at least 1,000 men had been sent to the town of some 500,000 people, a road and rail transit point on the way to central Java.

German police identify church bomber FRANKFURT (Reuter) - German police said yesterday that a Frankfurt woman who killed herself and two other women in a Christmas Eve church bomb attack had been undergoing psychiatric treatment and was most probably driven by "personal

A police spokesman the 49-year-old suicide bomber had been separated for the last year from her husband, who lived with their nine-year-old daughter. The three had once lived together in Frankfurt near the scene of the attack. "I believe her motives were personal." Frankfurt police spokesman Peter Borchardt said. "We have ruled out a terrorist or political motive. It appears to be a suicide."

Major wins 'personality' contest

LONDON (AP) - In a contest clouded by vote-rigging, Prime Minister John Major edged out a brave nursery-school teacher and Burma's pro-democracy leader to be voted BBC radio's personality

For Major, whose Conservative Party is mired in record unpopularity and national elections looming, the result yesterday was a rare break.

Disgrantled opponents said it was simply incredible. "The idea that John Major could end up being as personality of the year is so ludicrous as to beggar belief," said Labor legislator Tony Banks. "It just merely indicates that the Labor Party has got an awful lot to learn when it comes to vote-rigging.

Major's chances had improved after the British Broadcasting Corp.'s flagship current affairs radio program, Today, eliminated opposition leader Tony Blair two weeks ago because of an attempt to rig the vote by Labor Party officials.

Widow digs up dead husband's skull CAIRO (Reuter) - Egyptian police arrested a widow who dug up her dead husband's skull because she was lonely and missed his company, the Al-Ahram daily said yesterday.

The state-owned newspaper said the 48-year-old woman told police that her husband, who died four years ago, had asked her in a dream to take him back to their home in Menofiya province. because he wanted to be with her.

She then sifted through his grave and found that only his skull remained. Police caught the woman carrying the skull out of the cemetery and charged her with desecrating a grave.

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Guatemalan ambassador released

LEFTIST rebels released Guatemala's ambassador yesterday from the diplomatic compound where 103 other dignitaries remained hostage, though talks between Peru and the guerrillas seemed at a standstill

The release of Guatemala's ambassador Jose Maria Argueta was hours after an unexplained blast rocked the diplomatic residence, and came without advance notice or explanation.

Argueta walked slowly out of the two-story residence along with Red Cross director Michel Minnig, ending nearly nine days in captivity.

They walked to the police line where reporters from many countries were gathered. Minnig explained who Argueta was, and, saying nothing more, walked off without answering shouted questions. The release reduced the tally to 103 hostages, including

five foreign ambassadors. It seemed to be unilaterally granted by the rebeis. Peru's government has insisted that rebels lay down their

arms and free all hostages before it will negotiate directly. President Alberto Fujimori and Japan's prime minister critED MCCULLOUGH LIMA, Peru .

icized Uruguay for seeming to grant concessions to free its ambassador two days ago.

Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti denied there was a connection between freeing two Peruvians held for immigration violations and the subsequent release by rebels here of its ambassador Tabare Bocalandro. Peru had insisted on their extradition to Peru on terrorism charges.

"The Uruguayan government did not negotiate in any way with the MRTA (Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement), Sanguinetti said. "Freeing the Peruvians was strictly a judicial ruling."

Nevertheless, the fact that one happened just before the other also struck Japan's Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto as suspicious timing. "The inevitable result is that negotiations will be even more difficult" to free the

remaining hostages, he said in Tokyo. Japan has the second most hostages, after Peru, including

its ambassador, Morihisha Aoki.

A possible advance in the stalemate, now in its minth day. was expected after the Rev. Juan Luis Cipriani spent 7 1/2 hours inside the diplomatic compound Christmas day, and departed with a sick Japanese diplomat in a wheelchair.
Cipriani, a conservative archbishop and ally of Fujimori.

did not speak at a Red Cross news conference yesterday as he was expected to. At the news conference, Roland Bigler of the Red Cross said the explosion "was provoked by an animal" and injured

no one. The humanitarian agency sent a representative inside the grounds hours after the blast and observed rebels and hostages. Freed hostages said rebels told them all along that they

had mined or booby-trapped the grounds, so captives would not attempt to escape. "At this time, we have no knowledge of injuries. That is to say, we know, as of now, of no one wounded," Bigler told

reporters at a news conference. "We can also say that the information we have now tells us the incident was provoked by an animal," be continued. (AP)

Defying police ban, thousands demonstrate against Milosevic

DUSAN STOJANOVIC BELGRADE, Yugoslavia

DEFYING thousands of heavily armed riot police yesterday, tens of thousands of people ignored a ban on rallies to protest against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

The police were deployed in downtown Belgrade to enforce a newly pronounced ban on the anti-Milosevic rallies that began 37 days ago. Protesters are opposed to the annulment of local elections in Belgrade and 18 other major cities and towns.

Some of the police carried sniper rifles and automatic weapons, preventing large numbers of people from joining the rally. But rally organizers said the fact that demonstrators turned out in force was a success.

The protests have become the most serious challenge to Milosevic in nine years in power. Milosevic appears hesitant to use full force out of concern that even some of his most die-hard supporters could turn against him if major violence erupts.

Earlier in the day, hundreds of heavily armed riot police sealed off the venue of the main opposition rally - a downtown square trapping thousands of protesters within and preventing thousands more from gathering.

The move was only partially successful, however. Some 60,000 people made their way to another square nearby.

Although the police presence, the ban and the cold weather cut turnout from a regular 100,000, opposition leaders saw yesterday's

rally as a victory. Today we scored another triumph over Milosevic, showing we are not afraid of his police," said Vesna Pesic, a leader of the oppocoalition Zajedno SILION (Together). The police should think over who is leading them." Milosevic "is cornered, in panic," exulted another opposition leader, Zoran Djindjic. "We don't



A girl gives flowers to riot policemen yesterday in downtown Belgrade, where thousands of opposition supporters defects has en protests against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

know how long he can survive, but we can endure at least one day longer than the last Communist dictator in Europe."

Another opposition leader, Vuk Draskovic, told the crowd that at least one elite army unit - commandos based in Serbia's secondlargest city, Nis - had come out in open support of the opposition. His claim could not be independently verified. If true, it would indicate that Milosevic is losing ground in one traditional bastion of support, the military.

There were no major incidents during the rally. But later, police clashed with smaller groups of demonstrators who were passing by their cordons. Insults led to violence. Dozens of protesters were clubbed.

At least one protester was seen hit over the head with a baton and taken away by ambulance. A Russian TV cameraman was beaten and his camera smashed.

About 10,000 students marched separately earlier, braving subfreezing temperatures and snow and ignoring police warnings to The students carried long strings

of garlic which they said was their defense against "Communist vampires." Balkan superstition has it that garlic wards off evil spirits. Police did not intervene. The opposition's mood turned

somber by reports that the more than month-long daily protests had claimed their first fatality - a 39-year-old man who died of injuries received when he was reportedly beaten up by Milosevic supporters during street clashes Tuesday.

22 24 4

Pesic and independent media reported that Predrag Starcevic had died Tuesday night. An AP police source confirmed the death. At least 58 people were hurt Tuesday in Belgrade, including one man shot and seriously wounded by a Milosevic supporter. Draskovic claimed that 30 opposition party activists were missing since Tuesday and that

whereabouts

Burma bombing toll rises to 5

RANGOON, Burma (AP) - The death toll rose to five yesterday from a bombing at a temple compound visited by senior officials. The military government blamed insurgent groups trying to "destabilize the country.

Soldiers stood guard outside the Kaba Aye temple a day after two blasts shook the man-made cave holding a sacred relic believed to be one of two teeth of the Buddha that have been preserved since his death 2,500 years ago. The relic, on loan from China, has

drawn thousands of pilgrims daily since going on display December 6. Visitors have included the top generals of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council. Initial reports in government

media said four people died and 18 were injured in the second blast. In a subsequent statement sent to the media, the regime announced that a fifth person, a policeman, had died of his injuries. The other dead included another

policeman, a Red Cross worker and two members of the govern-

ment's civilian organization, the Union Solidarity Development Association, the government said. Six policemen, a monk and five pilgrims were among those injured. All the victims were

believed to be Burmese.

The government blamed the All-Burma Student Democratic Front and the Karen National Union, two insurgent groups based in eastern Burma. The alleged aims were to destroy the relic and relations with China, the southeast Asian country's chief arms supplier.

US approves standards for next generation of TV

ital PC-TVs that can receive the squeeze more video and data into WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal

regulators yesterday approved digital standards that could deliver movie-quality television to America's living rooms as early as

TV stations will use the hightech specifications approved by Federal Communications Commission to deliver crisp, digiral signals, Compact Disc-quality sound and even sharper pictures in a format called high definition. The regulatory formality marks

a crucial step in the nine-year journey to implement high-quality digital television in the United States. US industry is counting on it to establish superiority over European and Japanese high definition television based on older analog systems.

"What a terrific way to usher in the new year," said Peter S. Willmott, president of Zenith Electronics Corp., which said it plans to introduce high-definition TV sets in 1998. Before broadcasters can provide

digital television, however, the

FCC must take two other steps: It

higher-quality TV signals. The wider-screen digital TV sets could be sold at prices at least \$1,000 to \$1,500 higher than the cost of sets The FCC's action formalized a

delicate compromise reached last month among the broadcast, computer and consumer electronics industries. The agreement sets many technical specifications but lets the marketplace decide the format for displaying images and the size and shape of screens.

Because digital TV technology would allow broadcasters to

their existing channel space, viewers also could receive new services from stations for free or for a monuty tee. Those services could include additional TV channels of just sports, or movies, or stock quotes or other data services transmitted to home computers. For a period of time, broadcast-

ers will simultaneously transmit programs using two TV channels. one for programs in the existing analog format and the other in the new digital format. This way, the country's 220 million TV sets will not be suddenly rendered useless.

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NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, December 27, 1996

Beginning the end

The Jews of Hebron prepare for the inevitable. Herb Keinon reports

ETTLEMENT were summoned to the Knesset by Hebron leaders Monday night, soon after news began breaking that the longdelayed Hebron redeployment deal was in the immediate offing. The mood was claudestine; cloak and dagger. "We are planning something," a spokesman said over the phone. "But I cannot talk about it on an open line." (This official has taken for granted for a long time that the phones from his office are bugged.) "Meet at 6 p.m. in the public cafeteria in the

On the face of it, the Knesset seemed a rather odd place to give out confidential information about moves the settlement was obviously planning to combat the agreement. But on second thought, the Knesset made good sense: settlement leaders were spending hour upon hour there at the beginning of the week; furionsly lobbying MKs and government ministers against the agreement they dub "the abandonment

of Hebron." The settlers' information, as it turned out, was interesting, but not revolutionary. They gave reporters prior notice of their move early Wednesday morning into a few Amon, "IChief of Staff Amnon abandoned homes in the casbah. But, the fact that reporters were given prior notice already helped place the incident into perspective: it was a publicity move, and not the first shot in a battle to prevent the withdrawal from Hebron. And indeed, the move into the casbah was designed to attract attention, as settlement spokesman David Wilder said, to three issues: that Jewish property in the casbah will be turned over to the Palestinians. that Palestinians are busily renovating properties that literally touch the Avraham Avinu Jewish Compound; and that security is so porous in the city that small groups of people can move from neighborhood to neighborhood without being detected.

"I have never said this before." Noam Amon said in the Knesset cafeteria, speaking in hushed tones and leaning forward toward the reporters. "The practical upshot of the agreement is that it is the first step toward the destruction of the Hebron Jewish community." Then, speaking of the man who only six months ago he was praying would unseat Shimon Peres, Amon added, "Netanyahu will go down in history as the prime minister who led to the destruction of the oldest Jewish community in the world."

Hyperbole or prophecy? Isaiah or the ultimate spin-meister? The dark, apocalyptic tones with which the settlement's leadership has been painting the agreement is obviously an attempt to scare the government - and the nation - into changing it. But, as one of the major players in the area admitted off the record, this line could have the unintended effect of scaring the city's 500 lews as well; scaring them, in fact, to such an extent that some may opt to leave rather than be victims of - as the settlement leaders continuously warn a 1929-type massacre.

"RIGHT NOW, nobody is planning on leaving," the settlement activist said. "In fact, now people are trying to move in, but there are no vacancies." Yet, he said, in the future people could get so con-cerned about their safety that they may want to leave.

A second, unintended consequence of this type of warning could be that the government could decide, ironically, to uproot the semiement for the Jews' own good. "I would not be surprised if the government, feeling there was. a real security threat, would try to move the community," the activist said. "The Jews of 1929 never planned on leaving, and the survivors of the massacre were forced. to leave by the British for their

own safety." Amon's words about destruction, however, cannot be dismissed as mere paranoia. The city's Jews definitely have some-

thing to fear. And the fear is not merely anchored in what happened to the community in 1929. True, settlement leaders will admit, times have changed. The British are not ruling the land, the IDF will be here. But look what happened at Joseph's Tomb in September, the same could happen here. "If thousands of Arabs storm Avraham Avinu, do you think the soldiers will fire into a mob? They didn't do it at Joseph's Tomb; why do you think they will do it here?" asked Hebron settlement activist Moshe Ben-Zimra.

What emerges from these words is something heard frequently among Hebron's Jews - that they place little faith in the security forces' ability to protect them. This is because of the inferior position they feel the agreement will place the IDF in the city, as well as a deep lack of faith in the average soldier.

Numerous meetings with the IDF's top brass have not put these fears to rest. When OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir met with the settlers recently, he was asked point blank whether he feels the IDF can provide adequate security. "He never said yes," Wilder said. In addition, said Shahak] told me to expect a very difficult period. The IDF is preparing for a war, look at the sandbags

At this point, Ben-Zimra said, a conflagration is likely whether the government goes through with the Oslo accords or breaks them. The Hebron settlers are obviously praying there is a breakdown along the way.



A young soldier and even younger settler eye each other in Hebron this week.

"They say Netanyahu and Arafat ' the iron would burn the sheet." are fronting out the details," Wilder said between afternoon and evening prayers in the Avraham Avinu synagogue the day the two men were meeting. "Would that

THOUGH Hebron's Jews are hoping something emerges to derail the redeployment, Amon said they (Continued on Page 14)

Netanyahu's road to Oslo

Hebron demonstrates that interests rather than ideology prevail in Netanyahu's reluctant acceptance of Oslo, David Makovsky argues

URING their meeting at the Erez junction this week, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu took a leaf out of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's book In his meetings with Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, Arafat was fond of talking in detail about the array of opposition forces faced against him at home. During their three-and-a-half-hour meeting this week, which was held either with very few aides or just alone alongside US peace envoy Dennis Ross, Netanyahu candidly spoke about his own problems within his Likud coalition. He even told Arafat about his own brother-in-law, Hagi Ben-Artzi, who moved to Hebron as a sign of protest against the premier's support for the impending Hebron pullback deal.

Confiding in Arafat, and lamenting about his own domestic problems, certainly seems unimaginable for someone who only earlier this year was denouncing Arafat as a "master terrorist," and who pledged never to meet him. Indeed, with the endless Hebron talks now seeming to be on the verge of completion, it now seems evident that Netanyahu has traveled a distance on his own personal journey to Oslo. He is traveling down the unimagined road to Oslo, by way of the casbahs of Hebron, and officials believe he has done so because he realizes that so much is at stake.

Of course, one way to look at the Hebron deal is to compare specific components of this deal and contrast it to the one reached by

the Labor government, while asking the fair question whether the differences are great enough to warrant a loss of a half-year and Israel's standing in the region. Such a comparative debate is legitimate and will be waged, as in the words of a senior Clinton administration official: "Undoubtedly, the longer the delays, the

more the costs went up." However, the significance of a Hebron deal must also be analyzed beyond the covents of the deal itself, namely what it means for Netanyahu and the Likud. Specifically, this deal marks the first deal between swom enemies, the Likud and the PLO. No less critically, it signifies the Likud's first territorial concession in the West Bank. Moreover, it is occurring in the one city in the West Bank which resonates with biblical meaning. It is also not just any deal, but it marks Netanyahn's affirmation of the entire Oslo framework -- the same Oslo which the Likud railed so bitterly against while in opposition.

These factors combined, cabinet confusion about this issue is understandable since the Likud has never sorted out how its old ideas will mesh with the new reality of a post-Oslo world.

Since it is such a departure from the past, one can see that this agreement marks Netanyahu's "on-the-job" training. While one could legitimately ask whether it should occur at the state's expense, the fact is that, as opposed to Uri Savir, Labor's chief negotiator with the

(Continued on Page 14)

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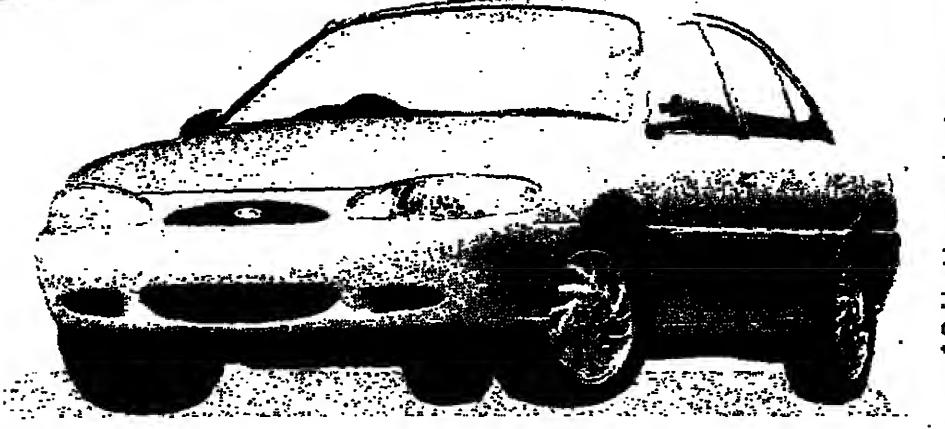
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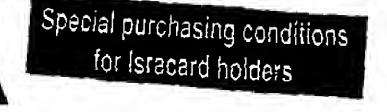
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Getting in a state

ome half a dozen figures on the coalition side of the great divide appeared this week to have reconciled themselves to the establishment of a Palestinian state, if not - in some cases - actually to have advocated it. But only one of them stirred up anything close to an emotional tempest in one corner of the political right.

It wasn't the prime minister's senior adviser David Bar-Illan,



Bar-Illan said the word...

(David Rubinger)

though he seemed to have started it all in an interview in The Jerusalem Post published last Friday.

Hot on Bar-Illan's heels, the Likud's MK Meir Sheetrit, never one to lose time to hop on a bandwagon, all but said "I told you so," and opined that "it would be far healthier if we initiate the creation of a Palestinian state in the framework of an agreement which will give us control over the terms, rather than have such a state thrust upon us under far worse conditions beyond our influence."

No one in the Likud bothered to react to Sheetrit. It was almost as if he was expected "to try and grab a headline. That's all it is - a desire to bask in the limelight for a fleeting moment. Championing a Palestinian state has become the in thing for those with an insatiable need to be 'in' - even if such a state would mean that we Israelis would all be 'out,'" said MK Ruby Rivlin, himself not a renowned Likud bawk

Neither was anyone in the Likud shocked to the core when Gesher MK Yehuda Lankri told Labor MK Yossi Beilin's Mashov Circle

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THEN

There was a mixed bag of fallout from last week's 'Post' interview of David Bar-Illan, Sarah Honig writes

that he "would not oppose a Palestinian state if certain conditions were met and various dangers prevented." No eyelids were batted in the Likud at this heresy of heresies. Lankri was dismissed as someone who joined Foreign Minister David Levy's entourage after membership in ... Mapam. aware that Yisrael Ba'aliya MK Roman Bronfman also entered the

Hardly anyone in the Likud was fray by saying that he "is still opposed to a Palestinian state but, with the proper safeguards, the idea now does not seem as frightening as it once was." The Third Way's MK Alex

Lubotsky was equally ignored when he argued that "there are concessions which worry me far more than a Palestinian state. If given a choice, I prefer greater Palestinian sovereignty over less territory than a limited Palestinian sovereignty over more territory." Even the Third Way's chief ideologue MK Yehuda Harel paid Lubotsky no attention, despite the



...Sheetrit got on board...

(Isaac Haran)

fact that he fumed against Likud Knesset faction chairman Michael Eitan's continuing get-togethers with Beilin in order to formulate a consensus on what goals Israel should strive for in the final-status negotiations. Harel called on the Likud to rem in its people so that "the chumminess with Beilin does

KAV LA'OVED

INFORMATION FOR FOREIGN WORKERS IN ISRAEL

YOUR PASSPORT HAS BEEN TAKEN, THERE IS AN ATTEMPT TO EXPELYOU FROM ISRAEL BEFORE YOU HAVE BEEN

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The employer must pay the employee's salary for sick days if the worker produces medical documents attesting to liness.

The employer is responsible for reimbursing the worker up to 14.90 NIS pre day for expenses incurred if the worker pays for his

A worker who is injured during the course of his work (whether legally or Elegally employed) is entitled to compensation from the

provides coverage for hospitalization and medical treatments and disability pay even if the worker returns to his country.

National Insurance Institute (N.I.I.) for up to 180 missed days of work at a rate of 75% of the workers salary. Additionally the N.I.I.

Both legal and illegal foreign workers can submit claims to the Israeli Labor Courts if any of the above mentioned rights have been

in case of a work accident it is important to report to the hospital upon admittance that the injury was work related, the name of the

No employer is permitted to expel workers from israel; only the police have that authority and only with an official expulsion order.

The worker must receive the expulsion order at least three days before being expelled in order that an appeal may be filed if the

it is recommended that workers request from their employers pay stubs and retain them until termination of their employment and full payment of all wages and benefits. Additionally it is recommended that the worker retain a time card signed daily by the

by Alex Berlyne

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Each hour worked beyond eight hours a day (for a six day week) is overtime and must be paid accordingly.

Every worker is entitled to twelve (12) days of paid annual vacation during the first four years of employment.

Every worker is entitled to payment for nine (9) holidays a year (if they don't fall on the Sabbath).

Unregistered workers may insure themselves with medical insurance for thirty dollars a month.

Prejudice

A worker is entitled to receive a translated copy of the employment contract.

*All figures quoted here are updated and accurate as of December 1, 1996.

The lowest legal wage is 10.69 NIS per hour (\$3.50 US\$) or 2065 NIS per month (650 US\$).

PROTECTION OF WORKERS' RIGHTS

they are not running ahead too

...Lankri was ignored... (Ariel Jerozoliwski)

not in the end lead to acquiescence to a Palestinian state."

The one coalition man who managed to generate excitement was the National Religious Party's veteran odd-man-out MK Avraham Stern. He said he would "not automatically rule out the evacuation of Jewish settlements in problem locations and the establishment of a Palestinian state. I don't want a Palestinian state but this is no holy taboo. Such a state can be accepted if it does not have a massive army, its own military industries or its own ambassadors. There are all sorts of states."

This nearly brought the NRP roof down on Stern, though no one had any doubts that he was all along the party's lonesome dove. MK Hanan Porat challenged Stern "to try and amend the party platform. Everything he says directly contradicts the platform upon which all of us were elected. Had NRP members realized Stern's views, they would never have sent him to the Knesset to represent them. If he doesn't succeed in getting the NRP forums to overhaul the platform, then he should do the honorable thing and return his Knesset mandate."

Stern claimed he was only speaking out in response to the Bar-Illan interview, but oddly

enough that interview itself failed to elicit the same outrage in the coalition as Stern's follow-up. Bar-Illan's comments, however, were seized upon with gice by the opposition. Thus Labor leader Shimon Peres pronounced that in view of Bar-Illan's utterances, "the Liked ideology is dead and buried. No one can talk of the integrity of Eretz Yisrael any more. Perhaps they are beginning to see the light. Now Bar-Illan even advocates a Palestinian state. am beginning to wotry whether

fast," he quipped, tongue in cheek.
Bar-Illan himself thinks that the "glosting in the opposition is misplaced and misleading. I did not advocate the creation of a Palestinian state. I expressed the fear that in view of the disastrous legacy left us by the Labor government, the creation of a Palestinian state may now be hard to prevent. What we must do is see to it that the Palestinians do not have the power to threaten us."

Why did he not face more acrimony, from his own political



...and Stern was deplored.

milien? Bar-Illan ventures that "perhaps it was because, confounding the wishes of opposition propagandists, most of the coalition keeps evincing common sense. People understood that I really said nothing new. There was no bolt from the blue to anyone who paid heed to what Netanyahu and others around him have been warning all along about the dangers inherent in the Oslo Accords, which could make the creation of a Palestinian state inevitable in the end, since as soon as bits of territory are handed over to Arafat, he would claim them to be a de-facto. state. Indeed the world is aheady treating the Palestinian Autonomy as a state and the foreign media have conferred upon Arafat the title of president, never mind the fine print of the Oslo agreement, to which only some of us here seem to refer. This is the sad lega-

contend." To his mind "talk about an ideological breakdown on the right and the beginnings of a conversion to the Meretz credo is preposterous. Rather than much ado about nothing, this is a distortion. It's not we who have abandoned commitment to the integrity of Eretz Yistael. The Labor government ceded great chunks of territory and set in motion a process that might necessitate more concessions. This is what violated that integrity and not our ideological wavering. They created facts on the ground which we cannot today ignore or unilaterally reverse. We cannot function as if in a make-believe world. Anyone who paid attention to Netanyahu during the campaign heard him time and again talk about the need to face the new realities, unwelcome and harsh though they be. It's no surprise to those who listened to the entire message and not just to selected portions of their choice."

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Still loyal to Mother Syria

While Golan Druse still reject Israel, intifadastyle conflict seems unlikely. David Rudge reports

I wo potentially lethal petrolbomb attacks on IDF troops in Majdal Shams, and a series of apparently nationalistic incidents, have raised the specter of the possibility of an intifadastyle uprising by Golan Heights Druse. It is a sobering prospect, but an unlikely one, despite Syria's encouragement and support for what the government-run media there described as "heroic acts of resistance by the Druse against the [Israeli] occupation."

Syria uses the same terminology to describe Hizbullah's guerrilla activities against IDF and South Lebauese Army troops in the security zone. Resistance is a legitimate right of any independent people to try and rid themselves of the yoke of oppression, according to Syria which itself controls Lebanon and its government.

The Golan Heights, however, is not Lebanon, despite Syria's continning hold on the hearts and minds of the majority of the Druse

population there. Neither can the situation in the region be compared to that in the West Bank and Gaza, where the size of the territory is far bigger and the Palestinian population numbers nearly 2 million - the Druse population on the Golan Heights is still less than 20,000. It is dispersed over four main villages: Majdal Shams, Mas'ada, Bukata and Ein Kiniya, on the slopes leading up to Mount Hermon. The nearest Jewish community, apart from the Mount Hermon ski site, is Moshav Neveh Ativ. below Mas'ada. Members of the moshev sun the ski site, the access to which passes by the entiance to Majdal Shams.

(It is no coincidence that in the main square in Majdal Shams stands a statue of Sultan Pasha al-Atrash - a Druse who fought with Syria in its struggle for independence from French rule, and, in the eyes of the Golan Heights residents, is regarded as a hero.)

A popular uprising by the Druse, were it to happen, could be contained relatively easily by the security forces, given the size of the Druse population and its confines.

The residents themselves, even the most ardent pro-Syrian elements, also tend to differentiate between Jews, with whom they work and maintain business-like and usually friendly relations, and the state which is their avowed enemy, seen as an "occupying

The enigma of the Golan Heights Druse is further complicated by spiritual ties to their Israeli Druse brethren, as well as to those living in Syria and Lebanon's Shouf mountains. The close religious links with Israeli Druse perhaps accounts for the Israeli authorities' attitude of trying to avoid confrontation with the Golan Heights Druse - another reason why an intifada-style uprising is unlikely.

The Druse also differentiate between their own circumstances and those of the Palestinians in the territories. "The Palestinians have replied Abu Jabal.



been struggling for the right to self-determination and a state of their own," said a resident of Majdal Shams, who asked not to be named. "We, on the other hand, already have a state and a homeland, which is Syria," he said.

THE GOLAN Heights' Druse appear to have adapted to the paradoxical pattern of their lives. which advocates limited intifadastyle disturbances on specific days, and peaceful coexistence the rest of the time. One of those dates is February 14-the anniversary of their general strike, in 1982. against the extension of Israeli law to the Golan and the imposition on them of Israeli identity cards. Another important day in the political calendar for the Golan Heights Druse is April 17 - Syrian

Independence Day. Violent clashes between residents and police have occurred on these days in the past, although in recent years police have kept a low profile, and demonstrations to mark the days have passed quietly. "Every time there was a demonstration and the police did not

'The Palestinians have been struggling for a state of their own. We already have one: Syria.'

intervene, everything passed quietly and peacefully. When the police intervened, there were confrontations which sometimes developed into stone-throwing and tear-gas battles," said Hail Abu Jabal, a resident of Majdal Shams. "We will continue to mark these important dates, and if there is no police intervention, they will pass quietly."

But what about the sudden eruption of violent acts in the past few months, which have not coincided with the special dates? These include arson attacks on a police post and a building housing the income-tax office, as well as two separate incidents in which firebombs were thrown at IDF vehicles in Majdal Shams and along the border near the village, which caused slight damage but no injuries.

"Opposition to the occupation started once the occupation [of the Golan Heights by Israel] itself began, so it's certainly not new,"

"We have always demonstrated our opinion and position that Syria is our homeland and we belong to Syria. What's new is that in the past three or four years, our hopes were raised that the era of war was over, and that an era of peace was coming in which the region would be returned to Syria.

"Suddenly, the new [Israeli] government starts saying the opposite, and acting as if it's the only country in the world. It does not take into account other countries like Syria, and wants 'peacefor-peace' and doesn't want to return any territories.

"The government started to make threats and some of the ministers even said that Syria would be wiped off the face of the earth. There were threats of war, military exercises were carried out, and statements were made about expanding settlements in general, as well as on the Golan. All of these statements and actions by the government, which has shown no sensitivity towards peace, have created frustration and anger among the people [on the Golan].

"All of the [Druse] residents of the Golan Heights, with the exception of a few who we hope will one day return to their roots, have expressed their opposition to the occupation and the statements being issued by the Israeli authorities. "Regarding the two petrol-bomb

incidents, we still don't know who was responsible. There are those who say they were perpetrated by residents and those who say they were done by the authorities to prepare the ground for more oppression. We don't know for sure.

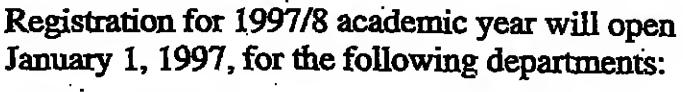
"What's clear is that occupation brings about opposition, and not everybody follows the same style of opposition. Our face is towards peace, this is what we want. We don't want blood being between us [Jews and Druse] but everyone follows his own path," said Abu Jabal.

There have been reports that Syrian incitement, as well as encouragement and financing, is behind the latest wave of incidents on the Golan Heights. The police and security forces view the petrolbomb and arson attacks very seriously, and they are leaving no stones unturned in their efforts to apprehend the perpetrators.

The question remains, however. whether these were isolated incidents by radical elements whose capture is only a matter of time, or if the attacks mark a turning point in relations between the authorities and the Golan Heights Druse. and a break in their self-imposed status quo.

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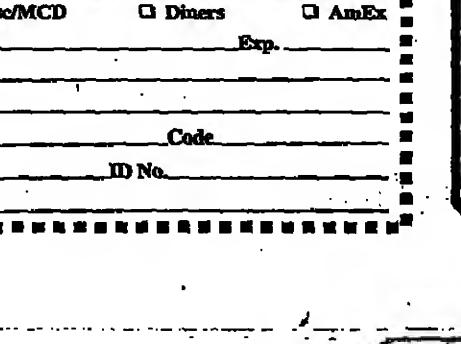
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The boomerang effect of freezing ties

Arab states realize they can't just beat up on Israel if they're to have any leverage in the peace process. They have to be nice sometimes. Steve Rodan reports

HEN he was invited to Egypt this week, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai expected to see the usual scowling faces of President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

But on Tuesday, Mordechai got a surprise. He found himself at lunch with his Egyptian, counterpart, Hussein Tantawi. The two men remmisced about the 1973 Your Kippur War and discussed Egyptian-Israeli defense issues, particularly the recent tensions between the two countries.

Later, Mubarak told Mordechai that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would be invited to Cairo as soon as he signs an agreement with the Palestinians.

In Tel Aviv, defense officials were pleased. "We've been trying to deal with Egyptian military leaders for a long time, so for us this was important," a senior official says.

After weeks of the big stick, this was Mubarak's carrot to Israel, in the wake of what both Arabs and Israelis regard as a breakthrough in negotiations to complete the Hebron accord. As head of Egypt's highly secretive military establishment, Tantawi is a shadowy figure and never meets Israelis. But he arm-in-arm with walked Mordechai in a gesture that suggested to the Israelis the potential of cooperation with Egypt.

Israeli officials and pro-government Egyptian analysts welcomed the change of tone by Cairo. The officials said that during the last week of the negotiations Egypt changed its role from spoiler to facilitator, urging Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat to reach an agreement on Hebron and other outstanding issues relating to the interim accord.

Some Egyptian analysts say that tensions with Israel were unusually high over the past few months and welcomed any relaxation. "The heavy brinkmanship to the edge of war is dangerous," says Tahseen Basheer, a former adviser to president Anwar Sadat, who attended a seminar last week at Haifa University. "It carries with it the risk of miscalculation. All humans make miscalculation."

Israeli government analysts say Egypt's about-face is not surprising. They say Cairo wants to lead the Arab world in setting policy toward Israel, whether one of hostility or reconciliation. So far, it has chosen a cautious approach. At the Arab League Foreign

Minister's conference in October, Egypt prevented a Syrian resolution for Arab states to expel Israeli

'It didn't serve Egyptian interests," an Israeli official says. "Egypt and most of the Arab states see cutting relations with Israel as counterproductive, especially if they want to maintain warm ties with the US."

Instead, Egypt agreed in October to freeze-the normalization of Arab relations with Israel. Nothing agreed upon was abrogated, but negotiations to conclude new projects were placed on hold. The Gulf and North African states that had established ties with Israel over the past two years quickly complied.

The result is that there does not appear to be any plan to raise the low level of diplomatic representation between Israel and the North African and Gulf states. In addition, projects discussed between Israel, Tunisia and Morocco have not been advanced.

Some Egyptians wanted to go further in expressing their displea-sure at Israeli policies. At one point earlier this month, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Mohammed Bassiouny, said Cairo might take a number of steps to protest what he termed the lack of progress in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. One of them, he suggested, might be his recall to Egypt.

"You know where it starts but you don't know where it ends," he said, on December 15.

But the Egyptians quickly backtracked. Diplomatic sources say Egypt learned from the recall of its ambassador in 1982 that such a step means an immediate loss of influence in Israel, as well as being difficult to reverse. Indeed, several days after Bassiouny was quoted as suggesting the possibility, he told the semi-official Egyptian daily Al-Ahram that his words were taken out of context.

Jordan's relations with Israel have not been affected as drastically as with the other Arab states. On one hand, diplomatic sources say, Jordanian Information Minister Marwan Muasher ended his threeday visit to Israel earlier this month frustrated that his appeal to the Netanyahu government to con-sider Jordanian interests when dealing with the Palestinians went

On the other hand, some Israeli companies continue to register brisk business with their counterparts in the Hashemite kingdom.

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the construction of a runway to Akaba's existing airport. Now, Israeli officials say, Jordan has suggested that Israel use the Akaba airport for international flights. Buses would take passengers straight from the arriving planes to the Israeli border terminal, where the visitors would have their passports stamped. The proposal has been widely criticized, particularly by Eilat officials, who assert that it benefits only Jordan.

"It would be an experiment with one international carrier to see if such a thing could work," says Dov Sharf, director of regional cooperation for the Eilat munici-

Still Jordanian officials continue to maintain excellent - albeit lowprofile - relations with Israel. Security cooperation remains high and both countries understand that their vital interests depends on maintaining an open line of communications.

As a result, some Jordanian analysts, particularly those close to the royal palace, dismiss the notion that Netanyahu is solely to blame for the worsening relations between Israel and the Arabs.

"I take issue [with the idea] that the Likud rise to power and its policies are the reason for the halt in the peace process," says Mohammed Mall Alla of the Hashemite Center in Amman. "Shimon Peres refrained from implementing the agreement in Hebron Legally, he could have done it. But politically, the mandate was given to another prime minister. What Peres did in the last few months as prime minister was

killing the peace process."

Few Israeli analysts expect the Arab states to significantly warm their relations with Israel if and when the Hebron agreement is signed. The accord will be immediately followed by Palestinian demands to implement the first of three redeployments in Judea and Samaria. The subsequent negotiations are expected to be tense and accompanied by more Arab threats

to reduce ties with Israel. But some Israeli officials say the Arabs have a weak hand. Despite high expectations by the previous Labor governments, the North African and Gulf countries have kept diplomatic ties to the bare minimum. Simply put, there isn't much the Arabs can reduce without eliminating altogether their formal ties with Israel.

"The Arab decision to go slow with Israel diplomatically has boomeranged," an Israeli official says, "because today the Arabs don't have leverage."



Yitzhak Mordechai got a nice surprise when he visited Egypt.

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selves acting as political spokes-

people and having to apologize to

the world markets for the actions

being taken by Israel," Koor

Industries chairman Benny Gaon, a confidant of Labor Party leader

Shimon Peres, told the Center for

Jewish Arab Economic Develop-

Still, the freeze in business rela-

tions has been felt in potential gov-

ernmental projects with Jordan.

One example is the oft-proposed

joint international airport at Akaba.

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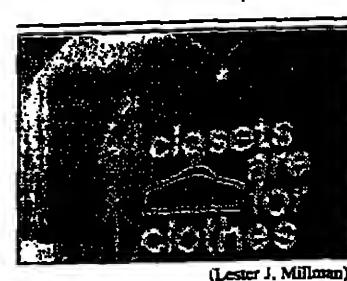
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Nothing 'gay' about it

President Weizman's comments on the gay community may never be forgotten. Larry Derfner reports



OSHE (not his real name) was watching television with his parents last Friday night when the clip came on of President Weizman insulting homosexuals before an amused, appreciative assembly at Haifa's Reali School. "My father was smiling like he agreed," said Moshe, a 23-yearold student in Jerusalem who hasn't told his parents that he is gay. "I put on a face like it didn't affect me, but inside I was boiling. I felt like I

wanted to break the TV set," he said. Fear of his parents' reaction is one of the main reasons why Moshe still isn't ready to "come out of the closet," but, he said. Weizman's performance at Reali pushed him towards "coming out." "It made me want to do something, to stand up for

myself." The president had told the assembly that he "despised" homosexuality, considered it "abnormal," claimed be could spot homosexuals from a distance, and even did a limp-wristed imitation of the stereotypical gay man. The students laughed and applauded. But those who were appalled by Weizman's

remarks kept silent. Avi Soffer, head of the Society for the Protection of Individual Rights for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals in Israel, said that while bigoted Israeli religious and political figures had defamed gays over the years, never had the assault come from such an exalted leader as the president:

Weizman's words had given the highest-level legitimation to homophobia, and carried the potential to encourage violence against gays, said Tal Janus-Hakak of the Community of Feminist Lesbians. "People (intent on physically attacking homosexuals] can justify it by saying, 'Look what the president

said." she noted. When Weizman's broadside first made the news, the gay community was frightened, Soffer said. People calling the society's hot line were asking, "What's going to happen now?" But the jokes, slurs, and applause at Reali School goaded homosexuals into a counterattack

which threw the head of state back onto the defensive. Recent calls to the hot line reflect that the initial fear has changed to indignation and militancy. "Now people are saying, 'Good for you,'" Soffer noted.

Between the angry demonstration outside the President's Residence last Saturday night, the expressions of outrage by Jewish homosexuals around the world, the clear sympathy shown by the Israeli media, and Weizman's own seeming contrition, the gay community, on balance, has emerged strengthened, Soffer main-

But not everyone in the community. "Most of the people out of the closet will be more assertive, most of the people in the closet will be more scared," he said.

Soffer and Jarus-Hakak said quite a few gays had aheady "come out" since Weizman's appearance at Reali. They noted that at the protest outside the President's Residence, quite a few of the roughly 300 protesters had never before identified themselves publicly as gay. "Weizman went too far. The anger people felt drove them out into the

street," Soffer said. The immediate emotional reaction from homosexuals was intense. Moshe said that while watching Weizman on television, he "felt like he was humiliating me personally. I felt like crying." A 16-year-old boy told the hot line that he had just about worked up the nerve to "come out" to his parents, when Weizman made his statements. "What am I going to tell my father now, when the president is saving things like

this?" Soffer recalled the boy asking. As for him and his parmer, Soffer said. "the moment we heard the news we were devastated. I said 'It's time to pack our suitcases and leave this country."

Than Schoenfeld, one of Israel's leading poets and a homosexual, said he, too, had felt the impulse to leave the country, but first he'd wanted to "burn the Israeli flag in front of the President's Residence."

This fury, however, was sublimated into action. Schoenfeld, who in recent years has stayed out of the public arena of gay activism, went to the demonstration and decided to resume work on a book he had shelved on homosexuality and

The international gay Jewish network pounced on the issue. Hours after Weizman's remarks made the radio on Friday morning, they were on the Internet website of the



Two homosexuals get together outside a pub. Fear of parental

reaction keeps many in the closet. London-based World Congress of and Lesbian Jewish

Organizations.

While Arve Shumer, director-general of the President's Office. announced that Weizman had received thousands of faxes in support of his remarks. Soffer said the office also received thousands of faxes in opposition. (Shumer, however, said the opposition faxes numbered only in the dozens.) The world gay and lesbian congress faxed a letter to Weizman, with copies to many Israeli embassies and Diaspora Jewish newspapers. "Frankly, sir, it is unbecoming of any president of any democratic state to talk of a section of their population in such derogatory terms and in such an abusive manner. Can you imagine what the response would be if another head of state said he 'despised' Jews, choosing to speak in a fake Jewish accent as he paraded his own unvarnished prem-

dices?" the letter read in part. activists denounced Weizman on Israeli talk shows; the president's remarks were played over and over; the media treated the matter as a scandal. Weizman refused to apologize, but on Monday he and his wife, Reuma, met with six gay activists, including Soffer and Jarus-Hakak, and four MKs - Yael Dayan and Ophir Pines of Labor, and Yossi Sarid and Naomi Chazan of Meretz. "We were welcomed with great respect," Soffer said. Weizman made a "sincere first step" towards repairing relations with the gay community,

Janus-Hakak said. The president's official response after the meeting was a brief, tepid

discriminatory legislation against gays, adding that "any deed or expression in which people are publicly humiliated - or deeds which can be interpreted as such should be regretted." During the though, appeared humbled, and tried to make amends, said Soffer and Jarus-Hakak.

The president said sheepishly that he'd "caught hell from Renma" for his remarks. He explained that he was of a generation that treated homosexuality as a taboo, and that he really didn't know much about gays. "I'm always learning new things," Weizman told the group, adding that he wanted to hold further discussions with homosexuals. Schoenfeld, who did not attend the meeting, was not impressed. He said the gay community had only been hurt by the affair - bigotry would be strengthened, and the distress that drives some adolescent:

sharpened.

versy's main effect on homosexuals had been a psychological awakening, some concrete steps would also be taken. His organization was now considering filing a Supreme Court appeal against Education Minister Zevulun Hammer's decision to bar a program on homosexuality from a Channel 2 educational series. Jarus-Hakak said her organization would try to send lecturers into classrooms to talk about discrimination against homosexuals. She stressed, however, that whatever good came out of the affair. "The president's words can never be erased." Still, it's a safe bet that he will never repeat them,

What's in an idea?

FEW weeks ago in a town in the American Midwest, a recent immigrant from Iraq complained to the police that his 13-year-old daughter had run away from home. It turned out that the father had recently married off the girl against her will to an older man, in keeping with Iraqi custom, and that he had similarly married off her 14year-old sister to another older friend. The 13-year-old had run away from her new husband with her American boyfriend, after the consummation of the mar-

The upshot of the story was that when the girl was found and returned home, the three men the two husbands and the boyfriend - were charged with statutory rape. The story was related by Professor Susan Okin of Stanford University to an international conference on "The Impact of Ideas on 20th Century History" held last week at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The conference was held under the auspices of the university's Political Science Department to honor its most illustrious member, Professor Shlomo Avineri, in recognition of his being awarded the Israel Prize last

Independence Day. Okin, who was speaking on "Feminism and Multiculturalism," used the above news item to illustrate her theme that various values that are considered hallmarks of liberalism and movements for social change often clashed. Multiculturalism, the assertion that various cultures in mixed societies are of equal value and that their members have an equal right to live according to their different cultural values, is one of those foundation stones in the ediffice of current American political correctness. But then so is femi-

Okin raised the issue whether cultural, ethnic or religious groups who treated their members illiberally should be entitled to have their own group rights defended by others. From a feminist point of view, she argued, guaranteeing minority cultural rights was often more a problem disappearance of such cultures through assimilation of their members into the majority culture - a politically correct no-no homosexuals to suicide would be -- could well be the preferable solution.

Israel is a Jewish state, or the Soffer said that while the controstate of the Jews - on which more will follow - but our universities are part of a broader Western cultural milieu in which the logistics of Christmas vacation time determine that we be inundated with a plethora of such conferences at the end of every December. And, what made this conclave of particular interest is that it succeeded in infusing a healthy comparative context by which we totally self-involved Israelis can contemplate some of our own problems which we often believe, wrongly, to be unique to the perverse and problem-plagued Jewish people.



(David Robinger)

Multiculturalism, liberalism, economic prosperity and national unity are forces that may clash. Yosef Goell writes

LORD DAHRENDORF, Warden of St. Anthony's College Oxford, was the keynote speaker who set the tone for the three-day conference and its consideration of clashing values at the advent of the 21st century. Social democracy has been the hallmark of the outgoing century, just as capitalism and liberalism had been that of the 19th century, he said. The social-democratic century is at an end, however, not because it was wrong, he asserted, but because it was no longer helpful in confronting the new problems of societies in the 21st century.

Societies will be differentiated in the coming century by the manner in which they juggle their approach to three simultaneous problems: firstly, the ability of their economies to compete and prosper in increasingly international markets; secondly, the need to hold their societies together through social solidarity; and lastly the need to guaran-

tee political and civil liberties. Many countries have concluded that they can hope, at best, to solve two of the three problems, but not all three. The Anglo-Americans have been emphasizing economic competitiveness and political liberty at the expense of social solidarity; the Continental Europeans have been stressing social solidarity and liberty at the expense of economic competition; while many of the rapidly developing Asian nations have been ready to jettison political and personal liberty in favor of Singapore-style solutions of economic profitability and bureaucratically adminis-

tered social welfare. One of the most worrisome trends of the past 15 years, he

said, has been the emergence of a new class of super-rich - most dramatically in the US and Britain. The top 10 percent of the population have been moving way ahead of the rest. This trend has given rise at the other extreme to the growth of large excluded strata - national and ethnic minorities and an economic underclass, which are not part of or have opted out of the labor market, the political system, and their civic communities. In some countries, these excluded groups comprise 30 percent or more of the population.

Tolerating such a bifurcated society of super-rich and the excluded will constitute a grave danger to societies which will be beset by daunting "law and order" problems. It will also constitute a profound moral issue because it implies the abandonment of the universality of values for all members of society. Lord Dahrendorf warned that the greatest danger in the decades to come lay in a yearning for an authoritarian leadership as a result of widespread disappointment in the failure of state institutions to provide both political and personal liberty and security, and of the growing anxiety of the "majority class" over their increasingly precarious posi-

Professor Bhikhu Parekh of Hull University. England, is of Indian origin, and an expert in the fields of multiculturalism and

minority rights. He spoke of the various ways in which societies my to reconcile the need to main. tain a sense of unity while recognizing the rights of their minorities. These included modele which demanded the assimilation of minorities into the majority culture, plural models in which multiculturalism prevailed in both the public and private realms ("which is the only moral. ly defensible one but which requires extremely mature and self-confident societies"); and the miller model of autonomous ethnic communities which characterized the old Ottoman Empire - of which some traces remain in Israel.

Parekh told of going by train once from London to Hull with an eight-year-old Pakistani girl sitting next to him and her parents opposite him. The girl had become more and more perturbed at her parents who were talking loudly in Urdu, which Parekh understood. "Just as you don't exhibit your private parts in public," the girl had upbraided her parents. "so you shouldn't use that language in public." Parekh added that when he had related his experience to a Jewish col. league she told him that she had behaved exactly the same way when she was a little girl and her parents insisted on embarrassing her by speaking Yiddish in pub-

PROFESSOR RUTH Gabison who addressed the subject of whether Israel could be both a democratic and a Jewish state. asserted that that was possible only under broad definitions of both Judaism and of democracy. "A theocratic Jewish state cannot be democratic; and an extreme culturally neutral democratic state cannot libe with a Jewish nation-state. People who claim that Jews are not a people but a religion cannot claim justification for Israel as a Jewish nation-

Her sentiment was echoed by Dr. Moshe Halbertal, who asserted that the central unifying aspect of the State of Israel was the Law of Remn. But if that law is what legitimizes Israel as the state of the Jews, it cannot be a Jewish state in the sense of one narrow and exclusive concept of what constitutes lewishness.

Gabison noted that secular Israelis today were much less patient than in the past in regard to making concessions to the reli-

The Orthodox for their part, who see that the status quo has been eroded against them, are intent on using their enhanced political power to restore that status quo, and to go even further to establish Israel as a religious state. "For the first time, the Orthodox today are openly voicing their challenge to Israeli democracy. This expressed itself last year in the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, and in the current attacks on the institution of the High Court of Justice."

Gabison said that the only hope for a viable Israeli democracy was to reach agreement between the camps for a system of power sharing.

She mused whether the "constitutional moment" needed for such a compromise agreement on coexistence could be realized. In the meantime, abetting the growth of an educational system that actively educated against the state "is just plain crazy."

In a comparative context. Professor Zbigniew Pelczynski, a transplanted Pole at Pembroke College, Oxford, noted that the role of the Catholic Church was a red-hot issue in the politics of today's Poland which was involved in writing its new post-Communist democratic constitu-

Surveys have found that 35 percent of the Poles are in favor of declaring unambiguously that Poland is a Catholic state. One of the hotly debated issues is whether God's name should be mentioned in the constitution.

Pelczynski was informed that a similar issue had erupted in Israel during the dramatic days prior to our declaration of independence on May 14, 1948. The issue then, too, was whether to mention the name of God in our Declaration % of Independence. The typical compromise that was reached after days of debate as the country was frantically preparing to meet the invasion of five Arab armies - can be found in the penultimate paragraph of the Declaration which reads, "and with faith in the Rock of Israel."

Many of our atheistic founding fathers chose to interpret that phrase geologically, while others were mollified by its theological implication.

press release in which he opposed 3 ONE-DAY TRIPS DAVID BROWN'S LIFE with Shorashim & The COULD DEPEND ON YOU Jerusalem Post Travel Club David Brown is a young Jewish man in Britain suffering from leukemia, who is in urgent need of a

r book

▲ A lighthearted approach, full of

numerous charming illustrations.

humorous touches and insights, with

▲ Translation and transliteration according

to the Berlitz method, in a reader-friendly

Spend a day away-from-it-all on one of Shorashim's bone-marrow transplant. If you are between 18 and 50, in good health, and have not been tested before. entertaining and enlightening English speaking trips. You'll please come to be tested as a potential donor. Testing will be conducted on Tuesday, December 31, at meet your sort of people, visit off-the-beaten-track places two different locales: at Magen David Adom in Romema, Jerusalem (near the Central Bus Station) and hear interesting and informative between 2 and 9 p.m.; and on the Bar-Ilan University campus, at the Livrant Auditorium in the explanations from expert guides. Chemistry Building, between 3 and 7 p.m. All that is involved is a simple blood test; the results will be Space is limited so book early and avoid disappointment.

The search is being conducted with the help of MDA, Kedma, the Sue Harris Foundation. The Jerusalem Post, and others.

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THE GALILEE - PEOPLE AND PLACES Thursday Jan. 9 Jews, Arabs, Christians, Druse, Beduin, Circassians - living together in a spectacular Mediterranean it is. Our tour will take us to Kaukab, Hararit,

landscape makes the Galilee the interesting place Yodfat, Shorashim, Sakhnin and Eshhar - a mosaic of human scenery living in an ideal setting. We'll meet the people and see the sites. NIS 185 (including lunch) Tour guide: Mark Rosenstein

Jan. 23

Thursday TU BISHVAT, MAN AND EARTH On this special day, we'll visit the places and people who continue the traditions of centuries with the use of medicinal herbs, plants, berries, trees and even learn from the animals in the region. We'll be in the Galilee and we'll meet the experts in the Druse village of Yerka, Yanuch and Deir Hana with its 2,400 year old olive trees. We'll hear from Hamzi Araida and Wahid Maadi and come away a lot wiser. NIS 190 (including lunch) Tour guide: Yuval Avidor

Tuesday Feb. 11

RETURN TO BEIT SHEAN Thousands of years of history - Greek, Roman, Pagan, Jewish - now revealed for all to see. Theaters, temples, bath-houses, markets, freacoes, houses of

ill-repute. All the beauty and cruelty that paganism offered. Even if you've been before, come again, because so much more has now been revealed, including the Mona Lisa, in one of the world's most successful digs. NIS 180 (including lunch) Tour guide: Israel Shalem

The town mice includes transportation from lenusalem or Tel Aviv and return,

THO said Netanyahu isn't doing anything? In the same week as his gullible religious supporters got a black eye in Hebron, the prime minister completed a remarkable one-two punch by dealing the bulk of his voters - middle-class urbanites - a blow in their pockets.

Apparently, with an anxious world glued to a terrorist thriller in Peru and a diplomatic melodrama at Erez, Binyamin Netanyahu assumed the budget disgrace he orchestrated this week will have passed unnoticed

Nothing could be more wrong. Not only did Netanyahu's pompous promises not to raise taxes prove to have been brazen lies, but in fact his budget leaves most Israelis sandwiched between hypocritical plutocrats and ignorant populists.

This unholy coalition of minorities is doing its best to impoverish us thick-skinned, hard-working, wage-earning, leaderless, silent majority. Yet at the end of the day, this week's show of fiscal nonleadership will emerge as an electorally potent experience for taxpayers, and a financial disincentive for investors.

The plutocrats, through the Manufacturers' Association, like to hail free trade and scold economic statism, but in practice, they cannot part with the government's nipple. Otherwise, how does one explain their shricks in face of a sober plan to reduce their investment-aid grants from 34 to 20 percent of gross investments?

This attitude - which resulted in a restoration of one-fifth of the originally planned cut in their grants - along with the moneyed elite's permanent insistence that the Bank of Israel sharply reduce interest rates and drastically devalue the shekel, is tantamount to a soccer player's complaint that the goalpost was too low. The problem, in other words, is that too many of them are either afraid of, or unable to, compete. A real competitor, faced with tough market realities, does not cry behind his government's apron, but trims costs, rethinks strategy, and then restructures.

Watch your wallet

On a recent visit by Minnesotabased industrial giant 3M, I asked its CEO, L.D. DeSimone, whether he knew personally US Federal Reserve Governor Alan Greenspan and Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin. "Yeah," he confirmed modestly. And how often do you meet with them, I went on, bearing in mind our own captains of industry's tendency to endlessly roam Jerusalem's political corridors and tell ministers, legislators, and bureaucrats what to do, "Every now and then," said DeSimone. And - being an exporter whose balance sheets are highly sensitive

to an excessively strong dollar's pinch - does he ever tell them what the greenback's interest or exchange rates should be? "Never," came the reply, "it's just none of my business," said DeSimone, who ranks high among Corporate America's most powerful executives.

Israeli executives, nevertheless, know better. They know better than Finance Minister Dan Meridor who is aware that investment aid is addictive and degenerating, and - as has been empirically proven by the State Comptroller - usually fails in the long run to generate the jobs, exports and population dispersal for which it was conceived in the first place; they know better than Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, whose tight monetary policy has effectively blocked inflationary pressures; and they certainly know

secutive years. And so, we end up with Manufacturers' Association president Dan Propper not only claiming that Frenkel's monetary actions are illegal, and urging the Treasury to revert to its rusty tool of administrative devaluation, but ultimately also twisting Meridor's arm so that we the small-business owners and wage-earning dwellers of apartment buildings - will add from our

better than DeSimone, whose firm,

with \$14b. in annual sales, has not

had one quarterly loss for 90 con-

ON THE AGENDA AMOTZ ASA-EL

limited resources to any capital investor's cash-laden coffers.

Funny, but for some reason it never works the other way around; or has anyone here been recently "aided" by, say, Koor CEO Benjamin Gaon, or Motorola Israel's Hanan Achsaf, or any other well-tailored and gold-cufflinked champion of capital-investment aid, while buying a car, paying a child's tuition, or financing a mort-

The saddest thing about our industrialists' insistence on schoorring the state is that it pots them in one league with Israel's ultimate beggars, the so-called social lobby.

Led by a group of hacks who have spent entire careers in the public sector, this forum thinks state funds are the panacea to practically anything. Consequently, they now will go back to their constituents and tell them "we saved you from reduced children's allowances, doctor's visit fees and higher medicine prices."

Never mind that the Treasury's original proposal was not supposed to affect families with more than three children. Never mind that the new budget means more expensive cigarettes - a cost which affects the poor more than the affluent - or that newly hiked gasoline taxes increase low-tech's operational costs, thus further pressuring the unskilled laborer's employer to lay off workers, or that municipal property taxes have been increased by 16% in order to finance the electoral whims of assorted Volvo-riding Gesher MKs

and their groupies. For their part, Netanyahu and Meridor are happy they managed to trim the budget by some NIS 7b., itself an imperative move. After all, the budget deficit this year is expected to total an astronomical NIS 13.5b., which in terms of its

share in gross domestic product is some 50% higher than originally planued; the trade deficit balloons every month by an average \$1b.; and the annual current-account deficit - namely the overall gap between imports and exports of goods, services, and unilaterally transferred funds, which in our case is a suphemism for Uncle Sam's presents - is expected to hit a record \$5.4b. this year.

The only problem is that in attempting to re-balance the budget, Meridor and Netanyahu are treating the symptoms rather than the causes of our chronic fiscal disease. The causes, to be sure, are excessive government activity and coortexation.

This year's yawning budget

stemmed Treasury's failure to adequately forecast internal revenues. Still unperturbed, the government now deludes itself that even heavier taxation will restore whatever income it failed to milk from us until now. In reality, with a budget equal to half the national product as opposed to some 35% in West Europe and 15% in the US - and with the developed world's highest indirect taxes, Meridor is bound to learn next year that he has merely aggravated this country's tax evasion problem, and that the sages knew what they were talking about when they said that a decree which the public cannot meet had better not be decreed.

And when our alarming deficits stubbornly reappear next year, foreign investors - who this year lent us generously in US and European bonds market - are likely to ask themselves whether they should respect a government that does not respect its taxpayers.

The way people manage their finances - let alone other people's money - says a lot, often everything, about them. Sadly, this week's budget proves that other than besmirch its predecessors, this government has no clear economic direction.

This government, other than its frequent Milton Friedmanite sermons - which, by the way, to the less cosmopolitan among his cabinet colleagues make him sound like a Martian has produced a budget devoid of novelty, resolve or vision.

Had they actually studied indepth this country's problems while in opposition, or at least during their six months in power, the Likud and its partners would have included in this budget some plans for structural change.

For Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, for instance, it went without saying that he should cry wolf in face of the cuts in "his" budget, which of course he largely managed to preserve. Heretical thoughts about the anomalous situation whereby he presides over a higher-education system which is tax-financed by an annual S1b. let alone proposing its gradual, or at least partial, privatization apparently did not even occur to him, since he wasn't seriously prodded into thinking that way by either Meridor or Netanyahu.

Similarly, Communications Minister Limor Livnat could have presented a schedule for the dismantlement of her ministry, which she herself admits should "ultimately" cease to exist. Also. Interior Minister Eli Suissa could have presented a cost-cutting plan for spinning off assorted localgovernment services to the private sector and curbing the perks currently enjoyed by hordes of municipally employed party backs.

Indeed, Netanyahu's much-heralded, "comprehensive" privatization plan, which he had promised to deliver "shortly" after his assumption of power, has yet to be

Understandably, he has had little time for that recently, since he was busy seeking funds with which to please Dan Propper and David Levy who, to be sure, are more important than us Middle Israelis. Apparently, the most effective way to achieve that, is by screwing us, through increased taxes for anyone who drives a car, smokes tobacco, happens to be a woman, or has a

Dry Bones HAS MANAGED TO INFLUENCE SOLOMON MY KING. SPEAK BIBI'S THINKING. CHURL! THE GOOD MORE THAN EITHER NEWS OR SHARON OR THE BAD BENNY News? BEGIN.

Leadership material

SHABBAT SHALOM SHLOMO RISKIN

"The staff shall not depart from Judah, nor the scepter from between his feet, until Shiloh come, and unto him shall there be a gathering of nations." (Gen. 49:10)

HE Book of Genesis ends with the death of Jacob, but before he dies, he makes quite possibly the most important decision of his life. Vavehi, this week's portion, is devoted to the blessings given to the 12 tribes; the smoothness of the text belying that behind the words there was a real struggle regarding who would carry the mantle.

Clearly, the leading candidate should be Joseph. Having risen from slave to second-in-command of the world's most powerful nation, no one could deny that he exhibited qualities of leadership second to none. Nevertheless, Jacob declares that the scepter shall not depart from

Judah. Why Judah? Jacob's choice is based on several elements. First of all, Judah possesses moral integrity. We see this in his public stance concerning his about-to-be executed daughter-inlaw Tamar, who was found to be pregnant after she had been widowed for more than nine months.

The irony is that Judah himself is the father. The moment of truth comes when, as she is being taken out to be killed, Tamar has certain personal items delivered to Judah. with the message that they belong the father of the child. Recognizing them as his own, Judah realizes that the woman with whom he had had relations - thinking her to be a prostitute – had in reality been Tamar, claiming her right to bear a child from the seed of Jacob. Judah could have remained silent, sparing himself the agony of public embarrassment. But in that case Tamar would have been executed. Judah admits his role in the act, exclaiming: "She is more righteous than I..." (Gen. 38:20). Such integrity is the stuff that true leaders are made of.

Second, a leader has to be a master politician, in the sense that polities is the art of the possible. If we contrast the reactions of Judah and Reuben to the near-murder of Joseph, we can distinguish a leader "who would rather be effective than right." Both brothers wished to save Joseph's life, but Reuben says this outright — and his angry and wild brothers shout him down. He has no recourse but to cast the hapless son of Rachel into a pit of snakes and scorpions, hoping to rescue him later that night. Judah's approach is different. He masks his revulsion at the contemplated murder by presenting a

financially beneficial alternative which will at the same time remove Joseph from his family dynamic. Seeing a caravan; he understands how best to save Joseph's life. "What profit do we make if we slay him?" he argues. "Let us rather sell him to these traders." The third characteristic of Judah

is his willingness to take responsibility, a trait critical to leadership. When famine forces the brothers to go to Egypt for food, the problem of Benjamin joining them surfaces. Simeon has been sitting in prison as a hostage. According to the demands of the grand vizier. the only way the brothers can have Simeon released is to return with their youngest brother. Jacob is devastated; he cannot bear the thought of losing Rachel's only remaining child. Once again, Reuben means well, but fails in the implementation. His suggestion to his father that "You may slay my two sons if I fail to return [Benjamin] to you," (Gen. 42:37) cannot be taken seriously. Obviously it's obscene to think that Jacob would do away with his

own grandchildren! Judah once again knows exactly what to-say to allay his father's fears; "I shall be the surety for him; from my hand you may demand [Benjamin]" (Gen. 43:9). All these positive qualities,

important as they are, pale next to the fervent speech Judah makes to convince the grand vizier to free Benjamin (in whose knapsack the vizier's "stolen" silver goblet has been discovered) and accept him -Judah - as a slave in Benjamin's stead. The true leader must know everything there is to know about his adversary and keep his information to himself; he must then couch his argument in such a way

that he must emerge victorious. I suggest that Judah intuited that the grand vizier was indeed Joseph. Why else would he single out these representatives from Canaan? How would an Egyptian grand vizier know how to seat them in proper order of their ages (Gen. 43:33)? And when the grand vizier specifically chooses Simeon to remain in prison, Simeon who was the ringleader in Joseph's "fratemal" lynch. a good case develops in the mind of Judah that this Egyptian ruler is indeed their long-lost brother.

Based on his suspicions, he pins his entire speech, 17 verses long, on the theme of their aged father and his profound relationship to the brother "who is not."

Conventional wisdom would suggest that if Judah has a last chance at arguing the defense, he might attempt to prove Benjamin's innocence; after all, the evidence is entirely circumstantial. But he doesn't deal with the "crime" at all. Instead he speaks only of the unique relationship between the old father Jacob and son Benjamin, substitute for the beloved Joseph.

In the one passage, there are more than 20 references to Jacob and Benjamin. Under ordinary conditions, no judge would grant clemency to a criminal because of an old father in the background. But, if that judge were Joseph, Judah's tactics would be brilliant. So unerring is Judah's intuition that he not only frees Benjamin, but inspires the grand vizier to reveal himself as Joseph and reenter the family of Israel.

Indeed, Judah - due to his integrity, political acumen, willingness to take responsibility, and ability to understand his opponent - emerges as the most worthy leader of the seed of Jacob.

Shabbat Shalom

What's an abomination?

A doctor in Gohati, Assam state, India, has implanted a pig's heart in a woman born with a hole in one of her cardiac valves.

Yediot Aharonot, December 19

HERE IS no scientific or pragmatic explanation for the kashrut laws: for why the Torah forbids the eating A of certain creatures, the eating of the meat of even kasher creatures that have not been ritually slaughtered. cooking a young goat in its mother's milk; why it does not require the ritual slaughter of fish.

The only reason the Torah gives, when it does give one, is an "irrational" reason, one that has nothing to do with chemistry, health, or hygiene; or even aesthetics. The allegedly inherently filthy and forbidden pig is no filthier or more piggish than the chicken, and it certainly doesn't befoul our daily environment more than the pigeons and other birds that make their homes amid our trees and on our window sills.

The Torah here speaks only of holiness. We are to observe these laws "Because I am God, your god, and you shall sanctify yourselves and be holy, because I am holy... For I am God Who took you up out of Egypt to be your god; so be holy, for I am holy" (Leviticus 11:44-45). And "...because you are the children of God your god [and] a people holy to God your god... [Therefore] you shall not eat any abominable thing..." (Deuteronomy 14:3-21).

Indeed, the permitted and forbidden animals are repeatedly characterized by terms meaning, respectively, "ritually/spiritually pure/tahor" and "impure/tamay" or "abomination/to'eva." Not a word about unhealthful or

Later, the talmudic Sages tell us several times that God couldn't care less what we eat or how we prepare our food and doesn't need any of the offerings the Torah commands us; the aim of the Torah's precepts is to elevate, refine, civilize us (Bereshit Rabba 44:1, Vayikra Rabba 13:3, Bemidbar Rabba 21:16).

So "holiness laws" would be a more appropriate designation for what are commonly called "dietary laws" in the later sense of laws pertaining to feeding and eating. In its original and primary sense, the word "diet" was close to the spirit of the Torah's kashrut laws. That sense was "way of living or thinking" (The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary), stemming from the Latin and Greek diaeta, meaning "course of life."

A VIEW FROM NOV MOSHE KOHN

THE TERM to'eva appears 139 times in the Tanach in various forms, mainly in reference to violations of what the Torah ordains as norms of Jewish behavior in the different areas of life. It is used in the senses of abominate, loathe,

despise, disgust in their various forms. It first appears in connection with certain practices the ancient Egyptians found abominable: eating with Jews (Genesis 43:32); sheep herding (Genesis 46:34); the Jews' practice of sacrificing sheep or oxen (Exodus 8:22).

Then it brands the forbidden foods (Leviticus 11:1-47. repeated in Deuteronomy 14:3-21) and a list of "abominations" including sodomy, copulation with beasts and other sexual "perversions/tevel" (Levitions 18: 26-30 and 20:13). It also brands as to'eva various aspects of idolatry; offering a blemished ox or sheep as a sacrifice; magic; transvestism; divorcing one's wife and remarrying her after she married and was divorced by another man; and cheating in weights and measures (Denteronomy 7:25-26; 12:31; 17:1, 4; 18:9-12; 22:5; 23:19; 24:4; 25:16; 27:15).

In the verb form of to'eva, the Torah also tells not to abhor Edomites, "for he is your brother [descended from Jacob's brother, Esan]" and Egyptians, "for you were a sojourning stranger in his land" (Deuteronomy 23:8).

The Prophets brand as to'eva not only idolatry, but also such phenomena as the offerings in the Temple of people who are ethically and morally wicked (Isaiah 1:13), the deceitfulness and greed of false prophets and compt priests (Jeremiah 6:15 and 8:12), usury, graft, adultery, incest, mistreating strangers, orphans, widows, the poor and the needy (Ezekiel 16:50, 18:12-13; 22:1-12).

The author of the book of Proverbs labels as to eva "lying lips," "evil scheming," "sowing discord among brethren, and the praying of those who refuse to learn Torah, and repeats the Torah's "disgust" at cheating in weights and measures (6:16-19, 11:1, 12:22, 20:23, 28:9). The Sages brand as to'eva saying one's prayers with full

bowels or a full bladder Berachot 23a).

AMONG THE Torah's "impure" animals is the pig, the only animal mentioned as having cloven hooves, one of the char-

ruminate (Leviticus 11:7, Deuteronomy 14:8). The camel, the hare and the rock-badger are specified as ruminants that are "impure" because their hooves aren't

acteristics of "purity," but disqualified because it does not

The disgust with which even many non-observant Jews traditionally regard the pig and its byproducts has a rational basis, which, however, has nothing to do with the animal's real or imagined hygienic or aesthetic defects.

The basis of this disgust was probably best expressed by Berl Katznelson, the Second Aliya nestor of the Labor Zionist movement

During Hannkka 1943, the chief rabbis issued a proclamation against Jewish pig breeders, setting off an uproar in the secular press. Katznelson, editor of the labor-union daily Davar, treated both the contents and the tone of this criticism in an article dated January 7, 1944.

He wrote inter alia: "...I confess: I hate pigs, and more than I hate pigs I hate pig breeders... I have no doubt that there is no swinishness in the world that they are not ready and able to breed in our midst for the sake of that same holy cause for which they breed the swine themselves... (Ketavim XII, pp. 55-58).

Prof. Anita Shapiro, in her biography, Berl, writes that Katznelson did not observe the kashrut laws and did not go to synagogue even on the High Holy Days.

But he "strictly observed the Tisha Be'av mourning practices — for national reasons — [and] scrupulously avoided eating pork, because Jews had let themselves be slain rather than eat it..."

The cause of the Jews' traditional revulsion against the pig and its byproducts is expressed in the story of the seven boys who let themselves be killed rather than even pretend to eat pork (I Maccabees 1:47; II Maccabees 6:18-7:42). So powenful was this revulsion that the Sages cursed pig breeders (Sota 49b; Menahot 64b; Yerushalmi Berachot 4:1 and Ta' anit 4:5). Yet one view has it that in the Messianic Era the pig will be kasher (Bechorot 24a). And the Sages also knew that certain porcine organs were

like those of humans (Ta'anit 21b).

AS FOR that heart transplant in India: it remains to be seen whether it will take, and how it will affect the

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(Continued on Page 13)

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The Council of Young Israel Rabbis (A Jewish Agency Funded Project)

VERY year, the American International School at Kfar ___Shmaryahu runs a combined Hanukka/Christmas party. For the past six years, a special feature of this event has been the donation of scores of gifts to our Toy Fund. How is it done? Each child at the school is asked

to bring a toy to be donated to our Fund. This year, I attended their party together with Judy Aminoff and Malcolm Gefson, and we were graciously received. We came away with two cars packed with hundreds of toys. They will be distributed to nurseries and clubhouses in distressed neighborhoods, where I'm sure they will be well received.

A very special thanks to our faithful friend, Gertrude Harvey Cohen, who each year, without fail, organizes a mini-drive for our Funds, as well as for many other worthwhile charities.

Apologies to the Members of (British Settlers Association). They donated the NIS 2.000 from their Yom Kef, not the BOS. We are most grateful to all our friends for their ongoing support.

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chain has asked him to explore the

possibility of setting up a branch

in Israel. The phone has been ring-

ing a lot, acknowledged Makov,

"but there's nothing concrete. The

chain is expanding worldwide and

Israel is one of the countries in

which it has expressed interest." It

just so happens that the chain is

jointly owned by super models

Elle MacPherson, Claudia

Schiffer, Naomi Campbell, and

Christy Inrlington, who, if the

deal goes through, may come to

THE GAY community may have

been appeased by the apology of

President Ezer Weizman, who

might not have delivered it as

quickly without the intervention

of his niece, Labor MK and gay-

rights defender Yael Dayan. But,

the question remains as to whether

the president can now live down

his new nickname. Legal affairs

Israel for the grand opening.

If he had a hammer...

GRAPEVINE GREER FAY CASHMAN

BATON is his usual tool of trade, but Maestro Zubin Mehta this week took up a hammer to remove the sign bearing his name from alongside the door to his suite at the Tel Aviv Hilton. No, he was not having an artist's fit of pique. The hotel is building a new suite for him and Mehta, who has been staying at the Hilton since it first opened, will move into temporary quarters in the interim.

FELLOW CONDUCTOR and internationally acclaimed pianist Daniel Barenboim who, like Mehta, is currently here for the 60th birthday celebrations of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, had an additional reason to celebrate at Wednesday night's concert at the Mann Auditorium, when he was presented with an honorary doctorate in philosophy by Hebrew University President Hanoch Guttfreund. Barenboim was to have received the degree at the Hebrew University's annual convocation last June, but was mable to attend at that time.

YOU DON'T have to be a Michael Jackson or a Madonna to attract a crowd of thousands. Rabbanit Leah Kook of Tiberias. who is wooing female sinners back to religion, is the new star in the local firmament. The 38-yearold wife of Rabbi David Kook, who has a large following of his own, is regarded by some to be not Kook but cuckoo. Nonetheless her fervent prayers and her passionate embraces seem to have growing appeal. The

mother of 11 children, she lets the oldest members of her brood take care of the others, while she roams the country doing the work of the Lord. Employing a style similar to that of Baptist Bible Belt preach-ers, Kook denies that she's a missionary, explaining that she's not courting non-Jews.

THE KINDERGARTEN teacher of Yair Netanyahu, the most publicized child in the country, has asked the media and satirists to keep their distance and not to deprive Yair of his childhood. It's unfair to use Yair as the tool with which to attack his parents, she

LABOR AND Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai does not shake hands with women, but he was in somewhat of a halachic bind this week when attending the opening, in Jerusalem, of the WIZO shelter for battered women. Although there were two other men on the dais, Yishai was not placed next to either. Instead, he was sandwiched between World WIZO honorary president Raya Jaglom and Sima Goren, WIZO Israel's chairwoman on the status of women. Helena Glaser, chairperson of

the World WIZO executive, while taking Yishai on a tour of the premises, had to keep reminding herself that she must not make any physical contact with him. Each time she wanted to usher him forward, her hand remained frozen in

ISRAEL RADIO talk show host-



Conductor Zubin Mehta wields a hammer instead of a baton.

ly au fait with her subject, but she displayed an amazing ignorance on the Broadcasting Authority law when chatting to IBA plenum members Gabi Butbul and Adi Adar, about whether or not the satiric Cameri Quintet had exceeded the limit in its Sunday night comeback on Channel 1. When an indignant Butbul threatened to have IBA director-general Motti Kirschenbaum removed unless he himself removed the Cameri incredulous Onintet, an Yachimovitch asked: "What, someone's going to determine what language is suitable for the IBA?" And to prove the point, Yachimovitch, ignoring Butbul's request to desist, played some of the skits in which the irreverent Quintet rode roughshod over religious and political sensitivities.

TEL AVIV lawyer Gil Makov has been busier than usual, ever since dubbed him "Archie Bunker."

COINCIDENTAL THOUGH it may have been, it was nonetheless another slap in the face of the peace process, that on the day after the meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and a host of government ministers set the ball rolling for the 30th anniversary celebrations of settlement in the Golan Heights

IT'S NO secret that Finance Minister Dan Meridor, Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert, and Likud MK Ruby Rivlin are all Betar Jerusalem enthusiasts, but now a new Betar fan may join them when they cheer on the team. Renna Weizman caught the bug from her eight-year-old grandson, Avner, whose slightly delayed birthday present was to watch Betar Jerusalem in a practice session. Sometimes it's worth having grandparents with protektzia.

FOLLOWING THEIR upcoming state visit to India, the Weizmans will be going to England in February and, inter alia, will be the guests of Queen Elizabeth before she moves out of run-down Buckingham Palace. Celebrity watchers will no doubt pay close attention to the meeting between Ezer Weizman and Prince Philip, and perhaps place bets on which of the two, who are notorious for foot-in-mouth disease, will be the first to say something which is not politically correct.

LEGENDARY IMAGE-builder and political-campaign strategist Arthur Finkelstein was in Israel last week and met with Prime Minister Netanyahu, whom he helped to put into office. Finkelstein was traveling incognito and was registered at the capital's King David Hotel under the name of Arthur Steven.

IN VENICE for the European premiere of his first musical, Everyone Says I Love You, Woody Allen, at a benefit screening to raise funds for the Venice Opera House destroyed by fire a year ago, told the audience that he wasn't staying because he never watches his own movies.

YOU imagine John Travolta playing the archangel Michael? Novelist and screenwriter Nora Ephron can and did, and gave him the title role in her new movie which co-stars William Hurt

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WENDY ELLIMAN

TIZHAK Shamir, famously monosyllabic, spoke eagerly for over an hour. Teddy Kollek, usually a close second to Shamir in his economy with words, was equally expansive. Shimon Peres and David "wonderful Bar-Illan gave accounts." Former Chief Justice Haim Cohen told "an incredible story."

"I was asking them about how they first arrived in Israel," says Canadian journalist and broadcaster Ben Wicks. "I wanted to know about what they left, how they came, who came with them, what Israel was like at the time, and how they got on their feet. It wasn't a hardhitting political interview, just an opportunity to tell their story to someone who's really interested in it."

These interviews, conducted in Israel last week, are the first of several hundred that together will become a book that celebrates Israel's 50th anniversary.

"I know that Israel's story has been written many times," says Wicks, "but I don't think it's ever been done quite like this.

"My kind of book is oral history: Hearing the story through the voices of people who lived through those times, gaining some insight into what it was like for them. We know, for example, there were militant organizations fighting for a State, but what did it feel like to be one of those fighters?"

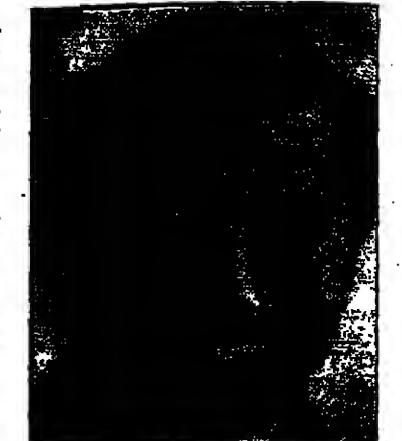
While the interviews done during his preliminary visit to Israel were largely of known names, Wicks's main interest is in hearing from those he calls the UIPs or the UnImportant People. "They, after all, are the backbone of this amazing country," he says. Too often, the generations who played such an important part in a nation's past are ignored as they get older. I think that's wrong. It's very important to understand they've contributed, because it's these people who've worked to make a country grow, who give its sense of national

books, among them a best-selling account of the evacuation of 3,500,000 British children to the countryside in 1939, out of reach of Nazi bombing. "That subject was particularly close to me because I was one of those children," he says. "I began the book by putting an ad in the British, Canadian, and Australian press, asking former evacuees to write to me about their experiences. Within three weeks, I'd received over 7,000 letters, and the book, No Time To Wave Goodbye, is written largely from those letters.

pride."

"I'm hoping that Israelis will do the same with the current book send me written, audiotaped, or even videotaped accounts of how they came to Israel, any time from the early 1930s to the early 1990s."

Wicks comes fresh to his subject. Until now, his Israeli/Jewish connections have been limited to a Jewish great-great-grandfather,



Ben Wicks: Seeking 'UIPs'

and a 1970s visit to Israel with five other North American journalists, all of them Pulitzer Prize winners. "Everyone was most impressed, and I bathed in the reflected glory!" he says.

WICKS was honored with Canada's highest civilian award. the Order of Canada, 10 years ago (as was his wife Doreen, three years later, for her work with Third World children).

His media credentials are impressive: As a syndicated journalist, he has written on Haiti and Biafra, and lived with the rebels of Northern Ethiopia, covering Africa's longest war. In 1986, he visited the Sudan to write on the refugee situation, and later covered the coup in Uganda. The Canadian TV network show he hosted, The World Of Wicks, ran for six years, and he has traveled the world, interviewing some of the leading figures of our time. As a cartoonist, Wicks has drawn for the Sunday Times, the Saturday Evening Post, the Los Angeles Times syndicate, the New York Daily News and the Chicago Tribune, as well as illustrated six children's books.

Time magazine has devoted a full page to Wicks and his communications skills.

Ben Wicks approaches his current project - the book on Israel with great enthusiasm. "I never e-cease to be amazed at the differ-Wicks is author of 17 earlier ent cultures and people who are in Israel, and are in some way linked," he says. "Each brings with them something of where they came from, and it seems to be that this is what gives Israel its great strength. It's as if some amazing chef has looked at this mixture of peoples and said: I've got all the ingredients, and now I'm going to make the best of cakes, and that cake is so supremely good that everyone wants a piece of it.

"My aim is to give those who read this book some idea of the kind of people who've come to Israel, how they got there and what they've contributed to this remarkable nation."

Ben Wicks's book is to be published worldwide by Bloomsbury Publishers (Britain) and released in the US by Hyperion Publishers

(Disney) in the fall of 1997. If you want to tell Ben Wicks your story, write to Memories, 15. Ya'ari Street, Jerusalem 93843.

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ACROSS

1 Conflict not over in town 6 Cat a number—

10 To use a blade is criminal!

impertinence, that (4)

11 He'd tell stories of artillery counter-blast (9) 12 A cast possibly about to

frame plans (8) 13 In no uncertainty over weight! (5)

15 A plant in the main (7) 17 Save from taking

dope—it's bad (7)

19 Falling back, military men discuss terms (7)

21 Smoking increasing again? 22 Dark near-casual shirt (5)

employed (8) 27 This will give one time to

24 Factory people currently

play (9)
28 The appearance of sound

men (5)

29 The right to call it quits—to separate (4)

30 Proof one can get drunk on non-alcoholic liquor! (10)

1 Carry a quarter back (4)

showing a fighter's expertise (4-5)

3 A woman in chic attire never looks wrong (5) 4 Fish left with encircling flowers (7)

DOWN

2 Phone about a floater.

18 Making a changeover striking (9)

20 To many a toss-up. Take a chance on it! (7) 21 Help for the old

5 The place of fruit or

7 Don't rise early—about one

8 Part of centre-page spread

9 A French pair set free (8)

14 "An undevout -- is mad",

16 Point to nicer new

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as a poet wrote (10)

structure (8)

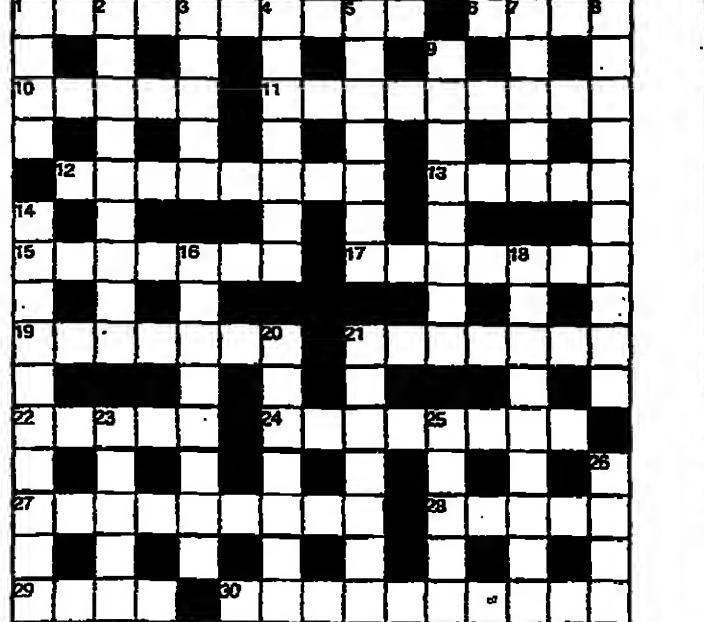
vegetable production (7)

should be right (3,2)

hailiff—about £1 (7) 23 Agree to advance (3,2)

25 Fitting, that is adjusting girth (5) 28 Others break (4)

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Testerday's Quick Solution ACROSS: 5 Suite, 5 Memories, 9 Shoel, 10 Regiment, 11 Vamps, 14 Par. 16 Gatesu, 17 Course, 18 Nov. 20 Revel, 24 Effinent, 25 Fetid, 25 Egoistic, 27 State. DOWN: 1 Smart, 2 Omega, 3 Grime, 4Sernice, SUpheaval, 7 Trappist, 12 Casement, 13 Derelict, 14 Pun, 15

Ace, 19 Effigy, 21 Plaid, 22 Deity, 28

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Sail (6) 4 Assistant (5) 8 Break (5) 9 Stress (7) 10 Fashionable (7) 11 Release (4)

12 Rend (3)

DOWN 1 Informal (6) 2 Ignorant (7) 3 Educated (8) 4 Female relative

5 Condescend (5)

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BITS AND BYTES

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Aladdin Knowledge Systems Ltd. (Nasdag: ALDNF) recently announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding

to the agreement, the two companies will cooperate on the

development, promotion and distribution of PC smart card tools in compliance with the new PC/SC standard. Bull CP8

has a 60% market share in the field and Aladdin is a leading

supplier of smart card development tools and applications for

Enrotrade Bank announces website: Israel's Eurotrade Bank

The site is designed to provide people with information about

International UNIX technology conference to take place in

January: The International UNIX Technology Conference is

scheduled for January 27, 1997 at the Exhibition Center in Tel

and Hewlett Packard will discuss this server's applications

toward the year 2000. For more information, call (03) 638-

Telecommunications and Electronics, a subsidiary of Koor

NetManage acquires Applicom's Internet technology:

which allows two or more participants to work together

applications over the World Wide Web. The Double Agent

technology will be integrated into NetManage's Chameleon

ATX family and other of the company's software products.

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit

Shekei Foreign Exchange Rates* (24.12.96)

3.2917 2.1170

5.5145

0.6274

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simultaneously on Microsoft Windows 32-bit software

NetManage, Inc. (Nasdaq: NETM) of Cupertino, California

recently announced that it has acquired Applicom Industries'

(TASE: APCM) DoubleAgent application sharing technology,

Industries (NYSE: KOR), recently reported that Audiofon of

German has purchased several hundred thousand marks worth

Koor sells telemarketing system to Audiofon: Koor

of its telemarketing software, MegaSale.

Currency (deposit for:) U.S. dollar (\$250,000)

Pound starting (£100,000)

Swiss franc (SF 200,000)

Yen (10 million yen)

Currency basket U.S. dollar

German mark

Pound sterling

French franc

Swiss tranc

Swedish Igona

Danish krone Finnish mark

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Australian dollar

Belgian franc (10)

Austrian schilling (10)

Spanish pesata (100)

equity markets.

S. African rand

italian Bra (1000)

Jordanian dinar Egyptian pound ECL

irish punt

Norwegian krone

Japanese yen (100) Dutch florin

German mark (DM 200,000)

5848/58.

Aviv. Speakers from companies such as Netscape, Oracle, SCO

has announced its new Internet site at www.euro-trade.co.il.

foreign currencies. Eurotrade Bank is a private Israeli bank

that offers a host of services to businesses and individuals.

with Bull CP8, a division of Groupe Bull of France. According

Aladdin announces joint cooperation with Bull CP8:

Former Bank of Israel governor, Michael Bruno, dies at 64

Jerusalem Post Staff FORMER Bank of Israel Governor Michael Bruno died yesterday in Jetusalem, following a long illness. He was 64.

One of Israel's best-known economists and widely accepted as the leading planner behind Israel's pivotal 1985 economic stabilization plan, Bruno was until recently the vice president and chief economist of the World Bank. He served as Carl Melchior Professor of International Economics at the Hebrew University and was a winper of the Israel Prize.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor yesterday described Bruno as a "lighthouse of economic truth."

"From the professional point of view and from the cultural point of view, we are poorer today," said Meridor, who as justice minister in the late 1980s worked closely with Bruno.

Meridor said he urged Bruno to stay on as governor for another term, but failed to convince him, Born in Hamburg in 1932, Bruno's family came to Israel a year later. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics and economics from Cambridge University and his doctorate from Stanford University.

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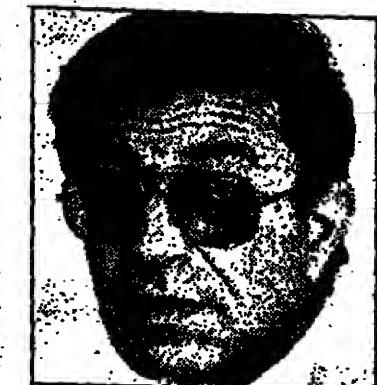
tour down south. On the way, we'll visit Israel

Chemicals' Dead Sea Works, for a guided tour.

Next day we'll tour the Red Canyon and Mt.

Wadi Rum

Join SHORASHIM and THE FERUSALEM



Michael Brnno

(Media Images) He chaired the economics department of Hebrew University before going to work for the Bank of Israel. There he served as director of the research department, and was advisor to the finance minister and a member of the group that formulated the government's economic sta-

bilization policy in 1985. By 1986, inflation dropped and Bruno was chosen to be governor of the Bank of Israel. He declined a second term, opting to join the World Bank, where he worked until

shortly before his death. The funeral be take place today at 11 a.m. at the Har Hamenuhot Cemetery, Jerusalem.

Analysts: Wall St. more skeptical of Israeli IPO's

CAPITAL-MARKET analysts in Tel Aviv say Wall Street will adopt a more "selective" attitude toward Israeli high-tech share offerings in

Roughly half of the Israeli shares currently traded on American markets will end 1996 below their initial issue price, while the remainder are expected to complete the year slightly higher. The New York Times ranked the Israeli-based Vocaltec and Logal Educational Software Systems among the 10 worst issues in the US, based on the stocks returns for December 17, 1996.

Analysts forecast the American market will remain receptive to Israeli companies next year but will focus on mature technology companies. Over the past two

(Continued from Page 11)

\$54 The children of Beth David

\$50 The children of Temple Emanu-El

Religious School, Englewood, NJ.

Lillian and James Glick, Newton, MA.

\$45 In loving memory of my mother,

Hena and my brother, Sander - Charles

\$25 Hilda Ringel, Brooklyn. Asrington

Nixon, Brea and Aimee Davis, Baton

Rouge, LA. In honor of the 60th birth-

day of Bruce Weil of S. Orange - Sheila

\$21 From the allowances of four little

girls: Abigail Etman, Bopi Bina, Be'arit

For Two weeks

73 Three Months

One Month

Two Month

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and Azriel Nagar, S. Orange, NJ.

Rotstein, Chicago.

\$30 Anon.

Synagogue Hebrew School, Hardord, CT.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

years most Israeli IPO's were issued by high-tech start-ups.

American investors still value Israeli high-tech companies but realize they lack management and marketing abilities, says Tami Gottlieb, general manager of the Israeli branch of the Oscar Gruss investment house. American investors, she said, will focus on Israeli companies with a track record of two or three years which have completed at least two rounds of private financing before going

According to Michael Eisenberg, vice president of investment banking at Jerusalem Global, an investment bank and consulting firm for high-tech start-ups, the majority of

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ry of Sadie and Harry Etman - Miriam

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Israeli companies that raised more than \$30m. in 1996 have performed "quite well."

"I hope, that despite frenzied competition among local investment banks, we will keep our hats on and use more mature companies. We can anticipate tens of offerings next year," he said.

But not everyone is as optimistic. Ze'ev Holtzman, general manager of the Giza Group which represents US investment banking firm Alex. Brown, expects fewer overseas offerings of Israeli companies next year.

"Overseas investors have become more realistic with regards to valuations of Israeli companies. But still we will see some nontechnology companies coming to the market," he said.

Hogg, top apiarist and friend to Israel -Jo Ann Graham, Lakeland, GA.

Markowitz, NY. \$5 Shai Richardson, Charlotte, NC. C\$50 In memory of my sister Sarah Kaplan - Ben Shara, Cote St. Luc,

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Tribunal for an Order under Section 47 of the Solicitors Act 1974. The said Application will be heard by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal at 10:00 n.m. on the 4th March 1997 at the Courtroom, 60 Carey Street, London WC2, when the said Laurence Alan Reefe should attend. Failing appearance by the said Laurence Alan Recte, the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal may proceed in his absence to make such Order as the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal shall think fit. A copy of the Application and the documents in support may be obtained from the Clerk to the Solicitous Disciplinary Thibunal, 227/228 The Strand, London WC2A 1BA.

Dated this 21st November 1996 David Swift Applicant 19 Hamilton Square BIRKENHEAD L41 6AY **ENGLAND**

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Substituted Service - Summary Y. Perez Ltd. (Plaintiff)

No. 51-002434-2

Clarina Jacobs

(Defendant) Passport No. 31385042

To the Defendant Whereas the Plaintiff has Issued a claim against you in the Magistrates
Court in Tel Aviv by way of summary procedure as specified in the
statement of claim, a copy of which is available in the court and in our
offices, therefore, you are hereby invited to serve a request for a
permission to defend yourself within 30 days as from date of publication of this substituted service. Fallure to do so, shall entitle the plaintiff to a judgment by default

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Shares end lower on profit-taking in quiet session

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DAN GERSTENFELD 219.02 Two-Sided index

SHARES closed lower across the board yesterday on an unexpectedly strong round of profit-taking,

traders said. The Two-sided index fell 1.19 percent or 2.51 points, to 209.02 on all share turnover of NIS 79 million against NIS 87m. on Wednesday.

The Maof lost 1.30% to 217.0. "We were all expecting a technical correction after the market rose sharply over the last two months. Nobody expected such a drop and there is simply no logical explanation for such a fall," said one trad-

could continue on Sunday, but the market will resume its rise next added a trader at Bank

The most active share was Koor: which fell 2.5% on volume of NIS 4.3m.

For the second session in a row. the second most active share was Israel Land Development, which gained 1.75% on turnover of NIS 4.2m. Traders said the rise was due to purchasing by inside shareholders.

Teva gained 0.25% on volume of NIS 2.5m. (Reuter)

NETANYAHU

(Continued from Page 7) Palestinians since the 1993 secret talks in Norway until the middle of this year, who said that he tallied some 3,000 hours of meetings with Palestinian interlocutors, Netznyahu did not know any of the PLO leadership before taking office, and perhaps knew hardly any Palestinians at all. Hence, there was bound to be a learning curve which may not yet be complete, especially since the Likud has held more of an ideological bias against the PLO than Labor did.

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Palestinian official Mahmoud Abbas (known by the patronym Abu Mazen) summed up the difficulties of these negotiations when he said recently: "Of course it is harder. We are now trying to make peace with the other part of Israel" which did not back Oslo.

However, as evidenced by the tepid and almost hushed reaction in the Likud to the remarks by Netanyahu's adviser David Bar-Illan to The Jerusalem Post last week about the possibility of the establishment of a demilitarized Palestinian state, the Likud seems to act as if it is in a post-ideological period. Interestingly, one person who did complain about Bar-Illan's remarks within the Likud was the ideologue Yitzhak Shamir - who is not in the Knesset anymore.

It is important that National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who is leading the cabinet fight against a Hebron deal, is seeking to win adherents among his colleagues by making his argument on security rather than ideological grounds. Settlers have also abandoned the ideological argument, realizing their only chance to win over the public is to speak in terms of personal safety.

One US official seemed to reflect the view of many when he said he believes that Netanyahu swung around a Hebron deal because too much is at stake for Israel. "He's in the big league now," the official said about Netanyahu. "You can be an ideologue in the opposition. But when you are a prime minister, you have to adjust your ideological underpinnings. The world is putting tremendous stock in these talks, You cannot ignore this reality without a paying price in Israel's

INDEED, the world is watching. Israel has much more to lose today than it did when it was a quasipariah state in the early '90s. In the wake of Oslo, it now has relations with a good portion of the Arab world, and therefore the risk of isolation and deterioration with unexpected consequences is much more evident. Critically, Israel's

peace process would adversely affect those crucial and increasingly intricate ties.

Furthermore, Israel's economy is much more linked to the Western industrialized states at a: time that its body politic has embraced middle-class living with a vengeance. Yair Shamir, a former head of Scitex and son of Yitzhak, admitted that his father saw Israel's evolution to a bourgeois state as a betrayal of ideology. Once you have acquired a lot. you are not willing to sacrifice all for an ideological goal as you were when there was nothing to lose, Yair cited his father as say-

Alongside Israel's relations with the US and the Arab world, a third set of pressures is neither foreignrelated nor economic, but unstaled. Specifically, in contradiction to what he believed when in opposition, Netanyahu now seems to believe that halting the peace process won't halt violence, but accelerate it. This is a crucial point. Ever since the September riots that seemed to demonstrate that the territories may turn into Bosnia, policymakers now see the possibility of a breakdown in talks turning into pitched violence, with enclaves of settlements being turned into potential hostages.
Therefore, ironically, the vulnerability of settlements have inadvertently become an impetus rather than obstacles to moving talks with the Palestinians forward.

When people inevitably ask whether Netanyahu believes "Hebron first is Hebron last," it seems clear that these three sets of pressures that have brought Netanyahn to where he is now will be accompanying him throughout the rest of the peace process. Critically, this does not mean

that one should expect Netanyahu act the same as Labor nor that the path ahead will be certain. Nor does anybody expect Netanyahu to yield to all Palestinian demands. To the contrary, Netanyahu will find broad public backing at home - despite massive. pressures abroad - if he is to be guided by a reasonable definition of national security on issues ranging from airspace, territory to water. Moreover, repeated suicide Hamas bus bombings will certainly cause the public here to lose faith in the process, and change the whole equation.

Yet, short of those situations, having responsibility for a country - as opposed to hectoring from Knesset rostrums in the opposition - means that Netanyahu is finding out that he has to look at the broader picture instead of just the feelings of people closest to him, such as his own brother-in-law. dependence upon the Pentagon is Vital interests, rather than ideolosuch that a chill in relations that gy, have brought a reluctant would follow from a halt in the Netanyahu to accept Oslo.

BEGINNING

(Continued from Page 7) ically do to derail it themselves. "This is not Yamit," Amon admitted. "The government is not coming to tear down homes."

When the IDF finally pulls out the few dozen soldiers it still has in given to the Palestinians), the options of the settlers will be limposts, or throw themselves down dent of the worst kind."

Metalgacelectraft

incident - an auto accident in realize there is little they can phys- Hebron, even a confrontation over land in the Jordan Valley - could quickly spread to Hebron and lead to an eruption.

Amon provides a scenario: As a result, the reaction of the "Let's say a [Jewish] family is drisettlers will be very different: ving their car in Hebron, and is stoned. Somebody gets out and fires shots into the air. The nearby HI (the parts of Hebron due to be Palestinian policeman shoots back. An IDF soldier thinks they are shooting at him, and returns ited. They are not going to pull the fire. In short, the smallest thing soldiers back into the IDF out- could quickly spiral into an inci-

in front of the jeeps. They are not going to move into the Civil Administration building overlooking the city, or try and block the Palestinian police from deploying

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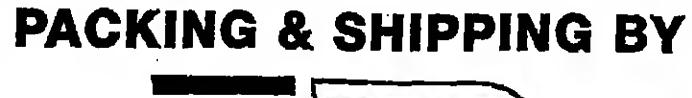
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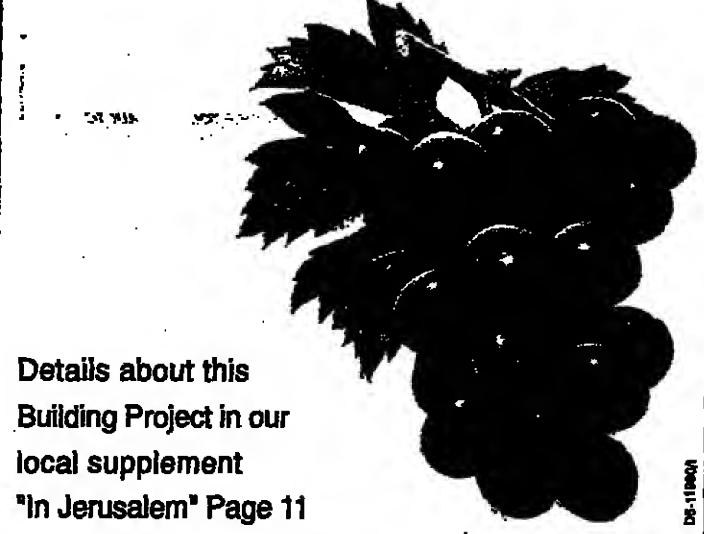
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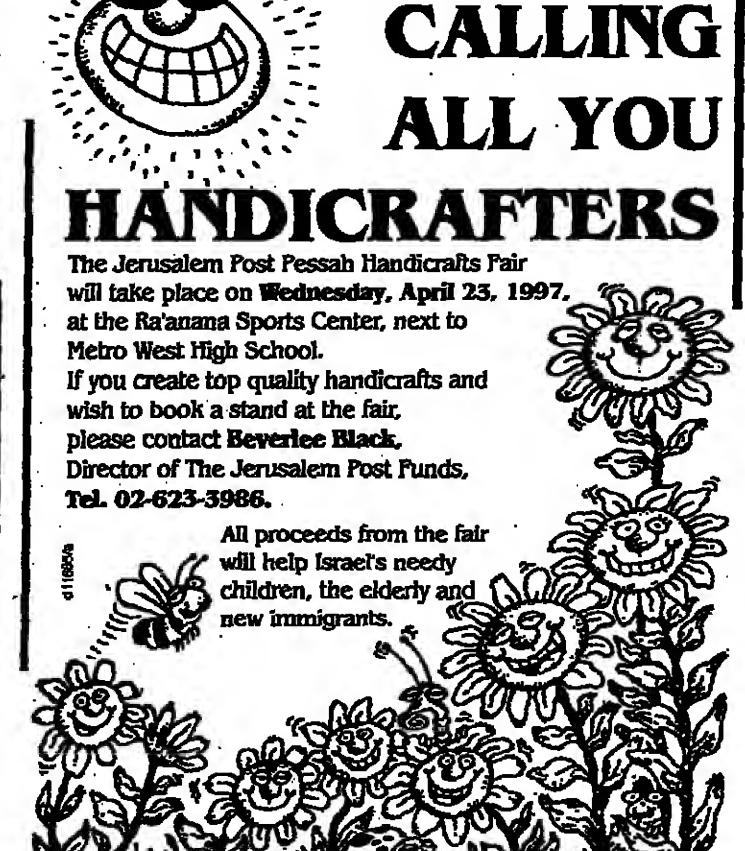
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ARAFAT

(Continued from Page 1)

understood - but was not part of

the agreement - that "the 34

Jewish families living in Hebron

Arafat said that Netanyahu

responded by saying he must

understand the pressure he is

under from the right wing and his

own party. Arafat said he respond-

ed that he is under pressure from

"We are in a good position and

we should struggle until we

achieve our independent state,"

Arafat said, adding that European

support is high and the anti-settle-

ment speech two weeks ago by

Clinton was very helpful to

Arafat urged Hamas and the

Popular Front for the Liberation

of Palestine "to understand us and

stop their military operations to

prove to the world that peace is

our choice." He also said that if

Israel contravened agreements

and built settlements, "I couldn't

keep the people forever in my

bands when they see their land

destroyed by Israeli bulldozers."

He asserted that according to

his reading of the Oslo agree-

ment, Israel is not allowed to

build even one more house for

what Israel calls natural expan-

sion, but only "a security fence 50

meters from the last house."

would eventually leave."

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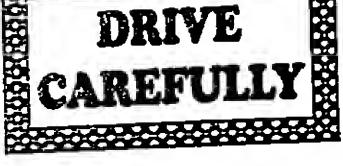
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Dow closes near new record

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks rose at Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., yesterday, leaving the Dow said the decline was caused by a Jones industrials just shy of its all-time high, as investors added the year's best performers to their portfolios ahead of year

At the close on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 23.83 at 6,546.68. The Dow was up as much as 40 points in the morning, hitting a record high of 6,563.21, but trimmed its gain in early after-

Michael Lyons, a stock trader

DROWNING

(Continued from Page 1)

she said tearfully. "He was like a

stone. A stone. And then I couldn't

She climbed up the ship's anchor

Shortly after 1:30 a.m., Tel Aviv

police received an emergency call

from the ship that Irena had board-

ed it, while it was anchored off

shore near the Reading power sta-

A police boat and a Dibur naval

ship began to search the sea for the

missing father and son. The police

and Coast Guard scoured the shore

from south Tel Aviv to Netanya in

the north. A helicopter was also

Police told reporters last night

A large sum of money was found

in the Kulsanikovs' belongings,

police said. But while they are

investigating why, they do not

believe the money is connected to

the drowning, noting that the

Kulsanikovs were known to period-

they believe Nikolai and Oleg

deployed in the search.

drowned.

chain with her last ounce of

hang on any longer."

strength

"I clutched my son in my arms,"

few automated sell programs which, on a day when the market is very thinly traded, sent the Dow skittering.

AT&T was up 1 3/8 at 42 7/8 and led the Big Board in volume. The Federal Communications Commission Tuesday unveiled a new fees plan that would ease some costs for long-distance companies like AT&T.

Allied-Signal was the secondbiggest gainer among the Dow industrials, up 1 1/4 at 69 1/2.

General Electric was third, up 1

Advancing issues outnumbered. decliners by nearly 2 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, with -1,609 up, 854 down and 852 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 253.43 million shares, vs. 165.13 million in the previous session. The Standard and Poor's 500stock index rose 4.79 to 755.82, and the NYSE's composite index was up 2.07 at 397.07.

The Nasdaq composite index 6.34 at 1,293.97.

Rapist gets 18

A 19-YEAR-OLD Rishon ke-Zion resident was sentenced yesterday to 18 years' imprisonment for raping and sexually assaulting five women between 1994 and 1996. One of his victims was 13 years

Tel Aviv District Court Judges Strashnov, Ze'ev Hammer and Shelly Timen strongly condemned the man for executing "routine rapes, heartlessly and without conscience.' His perverted actions deserved a harsh sentence to teach him a lesson and serve as a deterrent to

others, the judges said. The rapist overpowered the women, none of whom he knew, and threatened several of them with a knife.

He had been arrested for two of the rapes but, for reasons unclear to the judges, the Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court had released him. His arrest did not deter him from committing the same crime again, the judges noted.

Because the rapist was a minor at the time the crimes were committed, his name is barred from publication.

STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1) would only be unloaded after the strike and that they could pick it

up last night or today. Passengers arriving on a flight from Toronto refused to get off the plane after they were told they would receive their suitcases only

today, Israel Radio said. A disgruntled Israeli couple told to show up early for a morning flight to London to avoid the strike complained to Israel Radio that they had spent hours in the airport only to discover that the flight would take off in the

The couple said they had tickets for a musical in London last night, and would now miss the show.

Wild-Cards: A new experience for 49ers and Cowboys

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dallas Cowboys' fans were so shocked they had to play a wild-card game they forgot to buy tickets. For the first time in five years.

the Cowboys are without a bye in the first round of the playoffs. Their 10-6 record was good enough to win the NFC East but left them behind Green Bay and Carolina in the seedings. So they play Minnesota tomorrow at Texas Stadium on the first step in a difficult road toward becoming the first team to win three straight Super Bowls.

But they have company. San Francisco lost twice to Carolina, so the 49ers lost the NFC West tiebreaker to the Panthers and had to settle for their first wild card berth since

The AFC wild-card games also feature teams used to success. Buffalo, the Super Bowl representative from 1990-93, will entertain Jacksonville tomorrow. On Sunday, Indianapolis will be at Pittsburgh in a reprise of last season's AFC title game.

The Cowboys' problems haven't been lost on their fans -1,000 tickets were still left on yesterday, threatening a local television blackout.

"It'd be one thing if it was a regular-season game at the end of the year and some of the guys weren't playing," fullback Daryl Johnston said. But to be the first round of the playoffs and to be the only playoff game in Texas Stadium this season, it's surpris-

Minnesota (9-7) at Dallas (10-6)

Both teams were beaten badly last week, the Vikings 38-10 at Green Bay, the Cowboys 37-10 at Washington when they rested most of their regulars.

Minnesota coach Dennis Green sees the loss as a positive. The last time the Vikings were blown out - at Seattle November 10 they rebounded with a win at Oakland and went on a run of four wins in five games.

"There was no lower point ever that I've been around here than that Seattle game," offensive coordinator Brian Billick said.

"Yet you turn it around." The Cowboys' scored only five touchdowns in their last six regular-season games. In three of those six, they were limited to field goals, but won 12-6 over New England and 21-6 over Green Bay solely on defense and Chris Boniol's toe.

Jacksonville (9-7) at Buffalo (10-6)

Can there be a bigger contrast between the Super Bowl-hardened Bills and the second-year expansion Jaguars? This could be the last gasp for Buffalo. Jim Kelly, 36, is showing his age, and being hit often, and Thurman Thomas has been slowed by a sore ankle.

The Jaguars got into the playoffs only when Atlanta's Morten Andersen, one of the most reliable kickers in NFL history, missed a 30-yard field goal in the final seconds of their 19-17 victo-

"That's why you play this game - late in December, in the playoffs, in a nasty place where it's going to be cold and loud, and I'm playing against one of the best," left tackle Tony Boselli, one of Jacksonville's young stars, said of his matchup against Bruce

"What else can you ask for?"

Philadelphia (10-6) at San Francisco (12-4)

For the Niners, so used to the post-season, this begins the long road to a possible Super Bowl "It's obvious this is the role destiny wants us to take," quarterback Steve Young said. "We've done it a number of ways but we haven't done it this way." They'll see familiar faces with the Eagles, who lost four of five before winning their finale 29-19 over Arizona last week.

One is Ricky Watters, who left San Francisco after the Super Bowl win two seasons ago. The other is Ray Rhodes, the Eagles' coach, who was defensive coordinator of that team and spent all but three of his 15 years as an assistant coach with the San francico 49ers.

Indianapolis (9-7) at Pittsburgh (10-6)

There have been a lot of changes since last season, when Jim Harbaugh's desperation pass just fell out of Aaron Bailey's hands in the end zone in the Steelers' 20-16 win that sent them. to the Super Bowl.

For one, the Pittsburgh quarterback is now Mike Tomezak. although Bill Cowher may alternate him with Kordell Stewart. Stewart played in most of last week's loss at Carolina and had

an 80-yard touchdown run. The Colts backed into the playoffs, gaining a spot despite losing at Cincinnati last week, and still have a long injury list that's plagued them all year. One change from last season -Marshall Faulk, who missed that title game, will play.

BYE TEAMS, NFC Green Bay (13-3)

The Packers enter the playoffs a clear favorite in the NFC. They'B. be playing at Lambeau Field and they're averaging 34 points in four games since Antonio Freeman and Mark Chmurareturned to provide targets for Brett Favre, who is 19-0 in cold weather games.

"Now, we can go home, play on the beach, 72 degrees down in Florida, relax," safety LeRoy Butler said after the Packers got the holiday off. "Dallas and San Francisco have to play the first weekend and we get to sit back and watch them."

As the top seed, the Packers will play next Saturday against the lowest-seeded winner from the first-round. If the seedings hold, that will be San Francisco. whom Green Bay beat 23-20 in overtime at Lambeau Field October 14.

Carolina (12-4)

For a second-year expansion team, the Panthers are almost cocky.

"There ain't nothin' to it but to do it now," said defensive end Mike Fox, who played on the Giants' 1990 title team when New York also was a second

"We've got timee games left in the season and we've got to come away from them undefeated. You've come this far, you better

The defense has experience Greg Kragen, Carlton Bailey and Eric Davis also have been in Super Bowls and so has tight end Wesley Walls. But can secondyear quarterback Kerry Collins stand up against Dallas, which would be the opponent next. Saturday if the seedings hold?

Denver (13-3) This edition is better than the Denver teams that went to the Super Bowls after the 1986, 1987 and 1989 seasons. Two of its three losses came after it had clinched home field in the AFC and Terrell Davis has provided a running game that those previous teams lacked.

One danger spot is quarterback, although the early clinching gavo John Elway time to rest a troubled hamstring. With Bill Musgrave out with a separated shoulder, the backup is now rookie Jeff Lewis, who saw his first: regular-season action in the season finale at San Diego.

"If we didn't feel like Jeff was ready, we'd get an experienced guy in here, maybe somebody who has been in our system. But I believe Jeff would be the next best player available," said coach Mike Shanahan, whose Broncos will meet Buffalo, Jacksonville or Indianapolis next Saturday.

New England (11-5) Bill Parcells actually smilecwhen he got back to Foxborr after the Patriots rallied from : 22-0 deficit to beat the Giants 23

"They were happy and I wa happy, but I'll go back to being: jetk real quick," Parcells said after sending his players home for

22 and clinch their first-round

the holidays. The Patriots will be at home, next Sunday against Pittsburgh. Buffalo or Jacksonville as the try to win their first playoff gamsince 1985, when they won three road games to make it to the

NFL PLAYOFF GLANCE Wild Cards

Super Bowl.



pile provides top soccer draw

DEREK FATTAL

EVEN though the season has not yet reached its halfway point, Beter Jerusalem's total domina-tion of the National League has already convinced most soccer fans that the championship is a forgone conclusion.

Accordingly, the situation at the Spiegler's rival in the bidding race out of the division is set to stimu- for the one-time bastion of socialfoot-of the division is set to stimulate far more interest this weekend late far more interest this weekend ism is the Ninnod Dreyfns group. as the teams play out Round 14. Final-placed Hapoel Beit She'an will have a hard time taking any today and the other four tomor-

The "match of the round" pits two clubs from the bottom of the heap against each other at Bloomfield Stadium, as Hapoel Tel Aviv takes on Hapoel Taiba.

Both sides have had an eventful week. The Taibans who began the season on such a confident note already look set to have a grim battle on their hands if they are to avoid hurtling straight back to Division Two.

Tuesday Polish coach Wojtek Lazarek was politely shown the door and his former assistant Benny Lam, brought in as Taiba's caretaker coach.

Apparently the club's board felt that for all his tactical finesse Lazarek was simply unable to motivate his charges. Few can argue with that conclusion after last Friday's pathetic performance against Hapoel Kfar Sava which ended in a 3-0 home defeat. Nevertheless, in addition to adding motivation, Lam may also have to provide the proverbial kick-in-the-backside to some of

his playing staff. The situation at Hapoel Tel Aviv is beginning to resemble some outlandish plot from the Ramat Aviv Gintmel television series. The former sporting gem of the Histadrut is moving towards the conclusion of its pitiful decline from riches to rags.

The potential savior is none other than the dapper World Cup '70 star Mordechai Speigler who has been shuttling between the Big Orange and Paris conducting pur-chase negotiations on behalf of a French investment consortium.

points from Maccabi Tel Aviv. Although the Tel Avivians are hardly playing at their best these days they should be able to come away from this afternoon's meeting with their third consecutive victory.

Rishon Lezion, positioned 13th - just above Hapoel Tel Aviv - has the hardest task of all entertaining leaders Betar Jerusalem tomorrow. Few Betar supporters have forgiven Rishon for the defeat it inflicted at Teddy late last season which effectively killed off the Jerusalem side's title challenge. All omens suggest that the day of retribution has come.

One spot above Rishon, Hapoel Jerusalem will be hoping to arrest a string of six straight defeats against Buei Yehuda this afternoon at Teddy Stadium.

In other action teams from the Second Divison and lower flights will be taking part in the seventh round of the State Cup.

This weekend's National League fixtures: Zafririm Holon v. Maccabi Haifa, Holon, 2.30 pm, today; Hapoel Kfar Sava v. Hapoel Petab Tikva, Kfar Sava, 2 pas, today; Hapoel Tel Aviv v. Hapoel Taiba, Bioomfield Stadium, 2.30 pm, tomorrow; Hapoel Jerusalem v. Bnei Yehoda, Teddy Stadium, 2 pm, today; Ironi Rishon Lezion v. Betar Jeresalem, Rishon, 5 pm, tomorrow; Hapoei Belt She'an v. Maccabi Tel Aviv, 2 pm, today; Maccabi Petah Tikva v. Maccabi Herzliya, Petah Tikva, 2.30 pm; tomorrow; Hapoel Haifa v. Hapoel Becrakeha, Kiryat Eliezer, 3 pm, tomorrow.

	Natio	onal	Leag	ue					
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poel Beersheba	13	8	1	4	20	11	9	25	
ccabi Tel Aviv	13	7	4	2	22	14	8	25	
ccabi Petah Tikva	13	6	3	4	16	14	2	21	
ei Yehuda	13	8	3	4	15	15	_	21	
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Bottom of the Zimbabwe humbles sorry England

South Africa recovers vs. India; Australia reeling from Ambrose assault

HARARE (Reuter) - England's tour plumbed new depths yesterday as it was reduced to 137 for nine by Zimbabwe's seamers on the opening day of the second Test at Harare Sports Club.

Heath Streak undermined the top order with three for 34 and Guy Whittall took four for 12 from 13 overs of medium pace as England largely contributed to its own downfall with some wretched strokes,

Only John Crawley, unbeaten on 37, provides hope England may pass the 147 scored by Pakistan last year in Lahore, which is the lowest total against Zimbabwe since it became a Test-playing team in 1992.

On a muggy day ideal for swing bowling, Zimbabwe began England's problems when opener Nick Knight flicked loosely at Henry Olonga's first delivery to be caught down the leg side for 15.

Skipper Mike Atherton's nightmare tour continued when he became Whittall's first victim, caught at first slip for 13. After being dropped at first slip,

Alec Stewart (19) drilled a catch straight to cover in Streak's next over and England limped to lunch at 63 for three. Things went from bad to worse

in the afternoon when Graham Thorpe (five) spooned up a catch to short leg and Nasser Hussain edged a wide ball from Streak to the wicketkeeper when he had made 11.

Having arrived from Australia less than 48 hours previously as cover for injured all-rounder Ronnie Irani, Craig White came in with the scoreboard reading 73 for

White grafted his way to nine, but then edged Whittall to first slip to leave England reeling at 108 for six at tea.

Robert Croft gave good support to Crawley in the final session and the pair added 34, the highest stand of the imnings before Croft lost patience and drove wildly at a wide ball from Whittall and holed out to gully for 14.

Darren Gough aimed an ambitions sweep at leg-spinner Paul Strang to be bowled for two and one run later Alan Mullally offered up a tame caught and bowled to become Whittall's fourth victim.

Whittall is set to shatter his previous Test best of four for 70 and ing on one side of the stumps and from opener Andrew Hudson. drifting the ball away from the right handers.

But there has been no real terror in the pitch and Zimbabwe playercoach Dave Houghton said: "There's no reason why you



DEJECTED - England captain Mike Atherton leaves the crease after being caught at the first slip, while Zimbabwe's Guy Whittal celebrates.

shouldn't be able to make three or four bundred bere.

"It might take you two days because the pitch is slow and the outfield is lush, but I'll be telling my guys to play positively, but to occupy the crease. I think England's batsmen basically got themselves out because they weren't patient enough."

England coach David Lloyd said: "We batted badly. We didn't know where our off stumps were and we lacked discipline. It's the worst day of my career as England coach. "But there are still four days to

go and we're still at the crease and it's up to us to drag ourselves back into the game." Much to England's relief, the

day was shortened by 17 overs due to bad light. South Africa-India

Seamer Venkatesh Prasad captured five for 60 as India seized the initiative against South Africa on the opening day of the first Test at Kingsmead.

By the close, India was two without loss in reply to South Africa's first innings of 235 all out, the sub-wicket with Hudson, departed. D. Gough Strang
stance of which was a fluent 80 two oversafter limeh.

Stance of which was a fluent 80 two oversafter limeh. has exacted full reward for bowl- stance of which was a fluent 80

Hudson, initially shaky against the swinging ball, posted his 11th Test 50 and struck 12 fours before being caught behind by wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia off the gentle seam of Saurav Ganguly,

Christmas.

Wednesday.

defend."

Division.

the court.

Ainge said.

Lakers this season.

Mongia finished with five catches in the innings.

The Indian attack, spearheaded by the accurate Javagal Srinath with two for 36, dominated for much of the day after the home side were invited to bat first in hot, humid conditions.

Although South Africa recovered well during the morning session after the early loss of opener Gary Kirsten for two, it then slid from 70 for one at lunch to 113 for five by the 44th over on a relatively blameless pitch.

The 23-year-old No. 3 batsman Adam Bacher, on his Test debut, had given Hudson solid support during the first session with a composed 25.

Yet it was only much later in the day that all-rounders Brian McMillan (34) and Shaun Pollock (23 not out), as well as wicketkeeper Richardson (24), provided fur-

ther South African resistance. Bacher, who had played without blemish during a partnership of 62 for the second

Playing half forward defensively, he was adjudged leg before to a Srinath off-cutter, having faced 73 deliveries and struck three fours and a hooked six. The only other partnership

sixth wicket between Hudson and McMillan. After the departure of McMillan, leg before to the seam of David Johnson, the rest of the South African innings fell away in a further 11 overs.

of any substance was 49 for the

Prasad claimed the final scalp of Allan Donald, caught by Vikram Rathore at third slip, to register his third haul of five wickets or more in a Test inimgs.

Australia-West Indies West Indies fast bowler Curtly Ambrose made a stunning return to form by claiming five wickets to demoralize Australia on the first day of the third Test.

The veteran pace bowler tore through the top order as West Indies dismissed Australia for

England first incings N. Knightc A. Flower b Olonga. M. Atherton c Campbell b Whittall L Stewarto G. Rowerb Streak L Hussainc A. Flower b Streak G. Thorpe c Dekker b Streak. 2. White c Campbell b White! 6-94 7-128 8-135 9-134 Bowling: Streek 19-4-34-3 (nb2 w1), Brandes 14-5-31-0, Olonga 9-1-23-1(nb3), Strang 18-6-31-1, Whittall 13-5-12-1 219 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to rejuvenate its flagging

West Indies, which trails 2-0 in the five-Test series, was 29 for one at close of play after an absorbing day of cricket.

Australia all-rounders Steve Waugh and Greg Blewett both scored defiant half-centuries to rally the home side after it was reduced to 27 for four before

Australia, 1st innings Matthew Hayden a Hooper b Ambrose 5 Paul Reillet c Samuels b Benjamin Shane Warne c Campbell b Bishop ... 10 Extras (8lb 17nb)25 Total: ,219. Fell of wickets: 5, 25, 25, 27, 129, 195, 200, 203, 217, 219. Bowling: Curtly Ambrose 24.5-7-55-5 (9nb), lan Bishop 11-1-31-2 (2nb), Kenny Benjamin 19-2-64-1 (1nb), Courtney Walsh 14-0-43-0 (5nb), Jimmy Adams 1-0-4-0, Cerl Hooper 5-Betting time: 334 minutes. Overs: 74.5. West Indies, 1st Innings Sherwin Campbell bw b McGrath 7

Robert Semuels not out10 Shkrazine Chanderpaul not out11 Extras (16). Fall of wicket: 12 Bowling: Glenn McGrath 6-3-6-1, Paul Reiffel 5-0-21-0, Shane Warne 1-0-1-0, Jason Gillespie 1-1-0-0. Batting time: 54 minutes. Overs: 13.

United routs Forest, moves to 3rd

LONDON (Reuter) - Arsenal and Liverpool were held to frustrating draws yesterday while champions Manchester United crushed Nottingham Forest 4-0 to move into an ominous third place in the Premier League.

Arsenal drew 0-0 at Sheffield Wednesday in a disappointing evening match. The team remains second, three points behind leaders Liverpool with one game in hand. Earlier in the day Liverpool fought back from a goal down but

home to unfancied Leicester. In contrast, United took its goal tally from its last two games to nine an emphatic win in Nottingham which rekindles their hopes of claiming their fourth

still only managed a 1-1 draw at

English title in five years. David Beckham gave the visitors the lead after 21 minutes, stealing muthe back post where he latched outo a left-wing cross from Ryan Giggs and beat Forest goalkeeper Mark Crossley with a delightful

Sunderland 5-0 on Samuday and looks to have put a faltering spell behind itself, increased its lead through Nicky Butt before halftime and then dominated the second half against a Forest side languishing in bottom place despite its 2-1 win

Over Arsenal last weekend. Norway's Ole Solskjaer made the score 3-0 with his 10th goal of the season and Andy Cole, making his first appearance since cracking a bone in his leg earlier this season, came off the substitutes' bench to score United's fourth.

It all made for a miserable return to the Forest line-up for Nigel Clough, back after a three-and-ahalf-year absence at the club managed for so long by his father

United moves into third on 34 points, two points behind Arsenal and five points behind Liverpool, which was seriously out of sorts against Leicester.

Roy Evans's side fell behind to a second-half goal from Steve Claridge before in-form Stan Collymore saved the home side's blushes with an equalizer three minutes later - his seventh of the

Relegation-threatened Blackburn, which conquered the Premier League in the 1994-95 season thanks largely to the goals of Alan Shearer, ruined the England striker's return to Ewood Park by beating his current club Newcastle

The match swung Blackburn's way deep into the second half when Kevîn Gallacher grabbed a vital winner for the Lancashire side after a goalmouth scramble.

To add to the glee of the majority of a 30,000-strong crowd, Shearer was booked for a clumsy tackle on Jeff Kenna.

Two second-half goals from Italy's Gianfranco Zola gave Chelsea a 2- 0 victory at Aston which had Wimbledon 5-0 on the same

ground on Saturday. Everton lost 4-2 at troubled Middlesbrough while Coventry chalked up its third straight victory. beating Leeds 3-1 at Elland Road.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Aston VIII 0, Cheisea 2; Blackburn 1, Newcastle 0; Leeds 1, Coventry 3; Liverpool 1, Leicester 1; Middlesbroogh 4, Everton 2; Nottingham Forest 0, Manchester United 4; Sunderland 2, Derby 6; Tottenham 3, Southampton 1; Wimbledon vs. West Ham postponed (frozen field); Sheffield Wednesday 9,

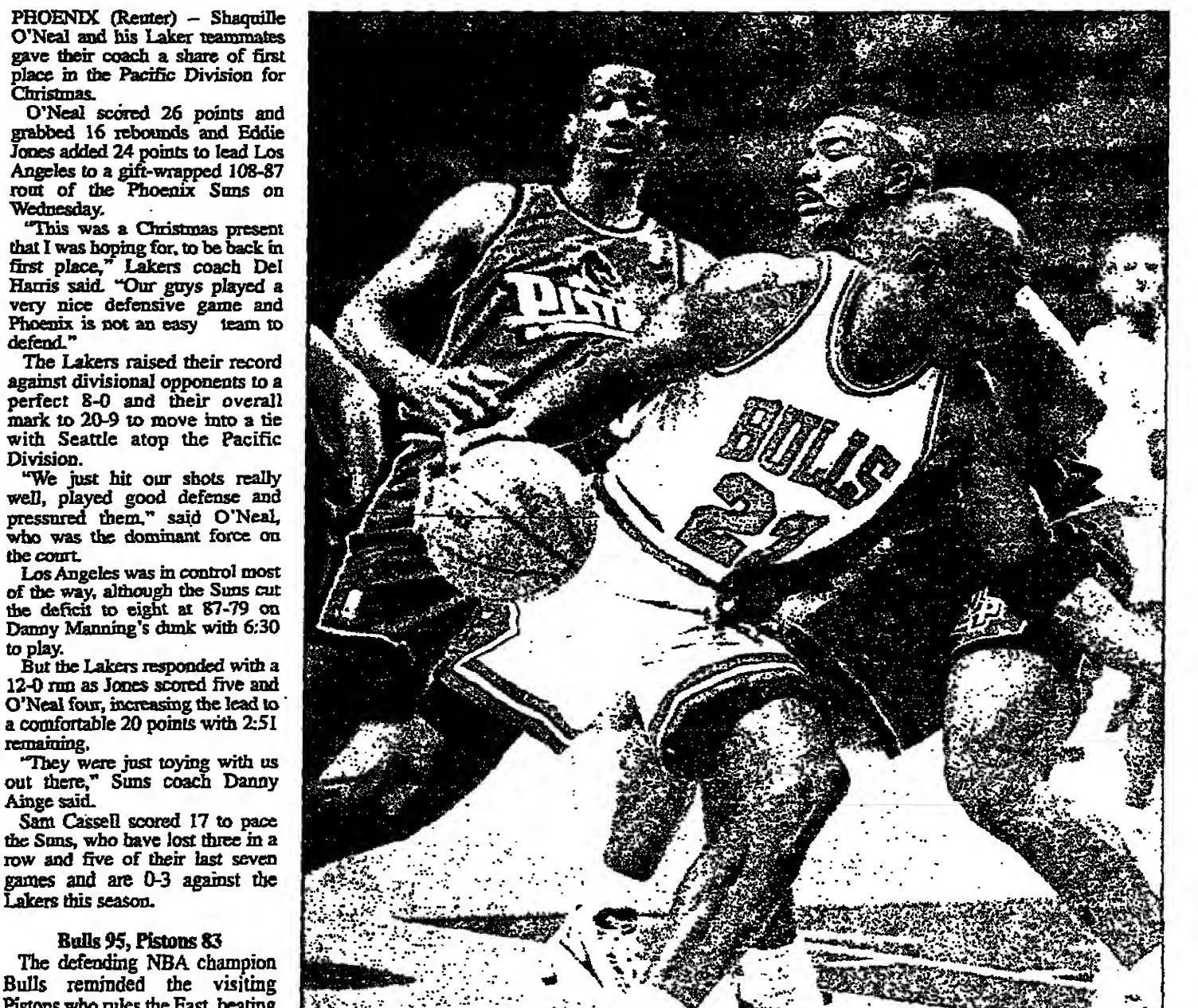
DIVISION ONE: Bradford 1, Sheffield United 2; Grimsby 1, Bolton Ipswich 3, Crystal Palace 1; Manchester City 0, Port Vale 1; Oldham vs. Birmingham postponed (frozen field); Portsmouth 0, Swindon 1; Queens Park Rangers 3, Norwich 2; Reading 2, West Bromwich Albion 2; Southend 0, Charlton 2; Stoke 1, Barnsley 0; Transcre 1, Huddersfield 1; Wolves 3, Oxford United 1.

DIVISION TWO: Blackpool vs. Barnley postponed (frozen field); Bournemouth 1, Bristol Kovers 0; Bristol City 3, Shrewsbury 2; Bury vs. Crewe postponed (frozen field); Chesterfield vs. Rotherham postponed (fruzen field); Gillingham 1, Luton 2; Milwall 0, Peterborough 2; Plymouth Breatford 4; Watford 8, Notts County 0; Wrexham 2, Stockport 3; Wycombe 0, Walsall 2; York vs. Preston postponed (frozen field).

DIVISION THREE: Barnet 1, Mausfield 1; Brighton 1, Colchester 1; Cambridge United vs. Scunthorpe postponed (frozen field); Cardiff 2, Torquey 6; Carlisle 1, Hartlepool 0; Chester vs. Rochdale postponed field); Doncaster Scarborough 3; Fulham 1, Exeter 1; Hereford 0. Swanses 1: Hull 2. Lincoln 1; Leyton Orient 2, Northampton 1; Wigan vs. Darlington postponed

frozen field). SCOTTISH PREMIER: Dundee United 2, Motherwell 0; Dunfarmline 2, Hearts 3; Hibernian 0, Kilmarnock ; Rangers 4, Raith 0; Aberdeen vs.

Lakers regain share of first place



RUNAWAY BULL - Michael Jordan drives into Detroit's Joe Dumars.

Pistons, who have not beaten Chicago since March 14, 1993. Thorpe and Hill began the game with consecutive field goals to give Detroit a quick lead, but Chicago scored the next 11 points

and never again trailed. Despite owning the league's third-best record at 20-6, the Pistons fell four games behind the Bulls in the Central Division.

Nashington Orlando

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: L.A. Lakers 108, Phoenix 87 Chicago 95, Detroit 83

EASTERN CONFERENCE

WESTERN CONFERENCE Midwest Division San Antonio Central Division Pacific Division LA. Lakers Gleveland Alianta Charlotte Sacramento Milwaukee Golden State LA, Clippers Indiana

(Reuler)

Navy downs California in Aloha Bowl

HONOLULU (AP) - Quarterback Ben Fay ran for two fourth-quarter touchdowns and Navy had 646 yards of total offense in a 42-38 victory over California in the Aloha Bowl.

The high-scoring game Wednesday was a contrast in halves. The two teams combined for 63 points in . the first half with California (6-6) holding a 35-28

Over the final two periods, the only scoring came on Fay's two TDs and a 41-yard field goal by Cal's Eyan Longwell.

Fay scored on runs of 2 and 10 yards and completed 5 of 8 passes for 118 yards. Fay's second rushing TD, with 1:41 left, was set up by his biggest pass play of the game, a 52-yarder to Cory Schemm with two minutes left. The Bears appeared to have the game in hand as

they started the fourth period with a 38-28 lead. But

Fay led the Middles on scoring drives of 80 and 84

Cal totaled 434 yards of offense. Pat Barnes completed 27 of 37 passes for 313 yards and three touch-

California's Deltha O'Neal set the tone for the seesaw game by returning the opening kickoff a bowlrecord 100 yards. It bettered the previous mark of 94 yards set by Hema Heimuli of BYU in 1992.

After missing a field goal on its first possession, Navy got a 7-yard run by Tim Cannada after Omar Nelson set up the score with a 57-yard run. A 6-yard pass from Barnes to Bobby Shaw gave the Bears a short-lived 13-7 lead. The Middies responded with two scores — a 1-yard plunge by Chris McCoy

and 4-yard run by Ross Scott.

hookup from McCoy to Schemm.

California bonneed back with two scores to move ahead, 28-21, on a 20-yard pass from Barnes to Sean Bullard and 31-yard run by O'Neal. Navy tied it at 28-28 on McCoy's 2-yard run that capped a 75-yard drive highlighted by a 62-yard

The defending NBA champion Bulls reminded the visiting Pistons who rules the East, beating Detroit for the 18th consecutive

> and Michael Jordan added 23 as the Bulls rolled to victory in a meeting of the top two teams in the Eastern Conference. Dennis Rodman, sporting red and green striped hair for the holi-

Bulls 95, Pistons 83

Scottie Pippen scored 27 points

also had 11 points and seven assists for the Bulls, who improved to 12-1 at home and a league-best 25-3 overall. Grant Hill scored 27 points, while Lindsey Hunter and Otis

Thorpe added 17 apiece for the

day, pulled down 22 rebounds. He

Vilna'i: IDF prepared for Syrian attack

STEVE RODAN

THE IDF has increased its preparedness for war in the wake of the Syrian redeployment along Mount Hermon, replenishing exhausted ammunition supplies, introducing advanced artillery and upgraded tanks and improving exercises, Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i said yes-

Introducing the IDF plan for 1997, Vilna'i said the military has been preparing for a confrontation with Syria since August, when Damascus moved a division from Beirut to the slopes of Mount Hermon. He said the IDF envisions a scenario whereby Syria attempts a surprise attack on the Golan with a massive amount of ground troops and tanks.

The likelihood of a war with Syria is greater than it was a year or two ago," Vilna'i said.

The IDF response, Vilna'i said, has been twofold. First, it has determined targets to attack within Syria should war erupt. Second, the IDF has increased the level of its standing army while providing soldiers with more advanced equipment.

The result, the deputy chief said, is that the army has been able to respond to threats on several fronts simultaneously.

"We were able to handle the tensions in the North and the September battles [with the Palestinian Police] in the territories without mobilizing the reserves," he said. "This is seen as a great advantage."

Vilna'i stressed that the IDF has not been on alert for war. Instead, he said, the military is improving its capability in case of such a development.

The IDF standing army has increased 30 percent over the last few years. Vilna'i said, and entire corps such as the air force and intelligence depend solely on recruits. He acknowledged that the increased number of recruits has been accompanied by a lack of motivation to serve in combat field units.

Vilna'i said the benefits of a large standing army were stressed during the recent tensions with Syria. Such a force, he said, could manage to repel a massive attack, including the use of Syrian missiles, until the reserves are mobilized.

"The IDF is a reserve army and this principle hasn't changed," Vilna'i said. "A standing army is very expensive. We see the benefits of a large, trained standing army, equipped with the best weapons. It is the first line of defense. The latest alert [in August in the North] only sharpened this concept."

Vilna'i said that during 1997 the IDF will receive several F-151 fighter-jets, Israel's most advanced warplane, Black Hawk helicopters, Merkava III tanks and MRLS artillery.



IDF soldiers training in the North prepare to take control of a room yesterday during maneuvers in which they practiced fighting in populated areas.

(Yossi Tealir)

High Court rejects petition against film on war widows

harassment of the widows, and

may even lead their children to

expression, art and creativity, our

honor and our families' honor is

being trampled," said organization

chairwoman Pnina Cohen in an

Being a war widow, she said,

means constant pain, from the lack

emotional speech to the court.

"In the name of freedom of

regard them with suspicion.

THE High Court of Justice refused to forbid last night's screening of Imri Amir's film Sex, Lies and Dinner on cable television, saying the outraged sensibilities of war widows, whom the film claims to portray, are not enough to justify the court's engaging in censorship.

Justices Shlomo Levin, Yitzchak Zamir and Tova Strasberg-Cohen

Zamir and Tova Strasberg-Cohen ruled yesterday on a petition by the Organization of IDF Widows, which charged that the film dishonored the memory of men who had died in the service of their country by slandering their widows.

The film, which was approved by the Cable Programming Council, portrays IDF widows as having one joy of a child's bar mitzva to the lack of someone with whom to share the fear for a child in the army.

Overriding characteristic, said attorney Alon Gelert: "An obsessive preoccupation with sex." As such, he said, it is likely to lead to sexual joy of a child's bar mitzva to the lack of someone with whom to share the fear for a child in the army.

Having lost so much, "all that is left us is our honor," Cohen concluded. "But now they are stealing even this from us in the name of

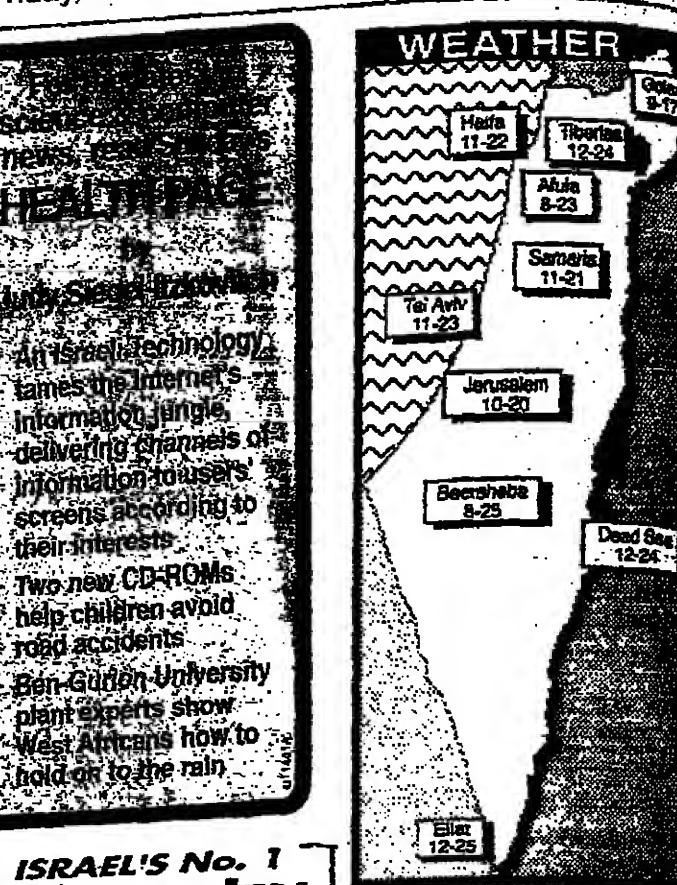
freedom of expression."

After the hearing, Amir tried to justify the film, saying he had received many calls of support from IDF widows.

"The drama is not against war

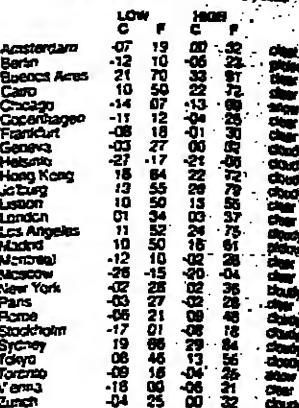
widows," he said, "It's for them. I show the war widows as human beings."
"No, as animals!" interrupted Ida

"No, as animals!" interrupted Ida
Asara, one of the widows. "Not as ...
human beings, but as animals!"



Forecast: Clear, unsessonably we Shabbat: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD



PER DAY

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ENGLINE

ENGLINE

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Bibi trades barbs with Christian leaders

HAIM SHAPIRO

Year's reception for the heads of the Christian communities is usually a staid event replete with platitudes. But this year the speakers broke the mold with a sharp interchange between the government and the churches.

Deputy Religious Affairs Winister Yigal Bibi opened the exchange yesterday with a thinly veiled attack on church leaders for their political statements. Bibi's comments were interpreted by many Christian observers as referring to Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, who last week issued a Christmas message that was highly critical of Israel, saying Israeli authorities had transformed the Palestinian towns into virtual prisons.

However, Bibi did not come out and name Sabbah, or even indicate his displeasure with church leaders who took sides on political issues. Instead, rather than openly criticize the churches, he issued an appeal to the Palestinian Authority not to encourage the churches to become involved in politics.

"I call upon the heads of the Palestinian Authority not to encourage the churches to demon-

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THE President's annual New strate and take positions on issues Year's reception for the heads of which are clearly of a political the Christian communities is usunature." Bibi said.

Bibi also reiterated the Israeli position that Jerusalem must remain undivided, but he couched this message, too, in diplomatic terms, saying the holy city had to be united not just physically, but spiritually, with brotherhood and love between all believers.

Asked if he felt that Bibi's message had been directed at him. Sabbah responded that issues which Bibi might have been referring to as political were those which affected the daily lives of the communities led by the church officials. The Israeli authorities had an obligation to find security measures other than closures, which

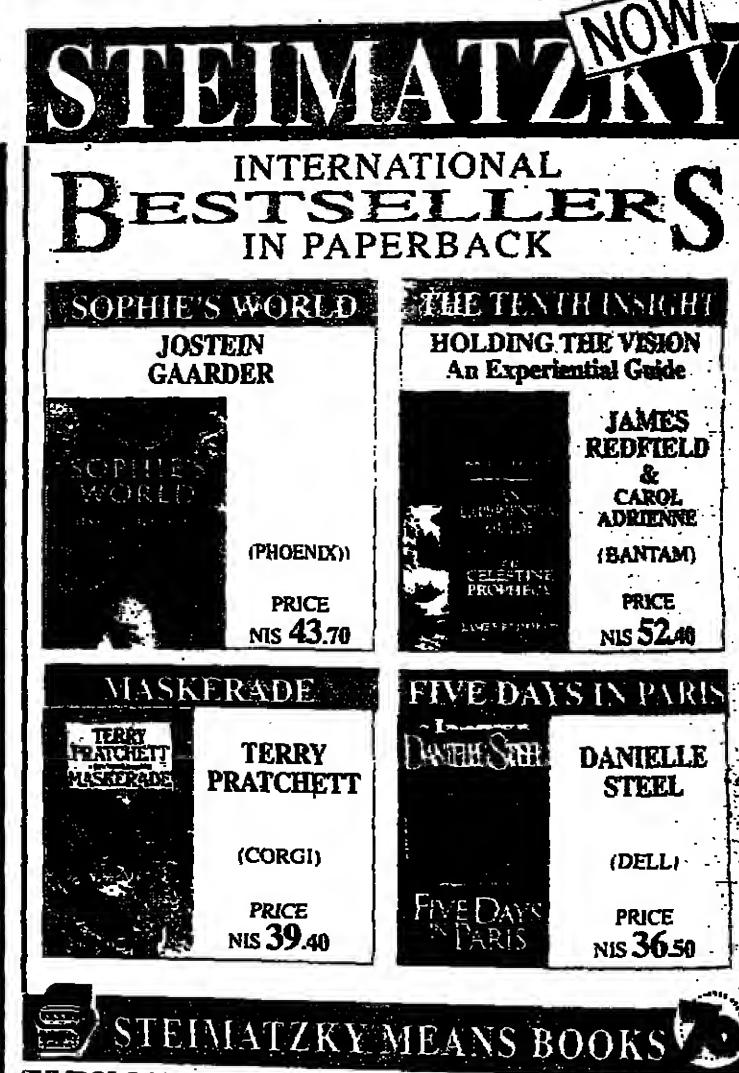
only resulted in increased violence.

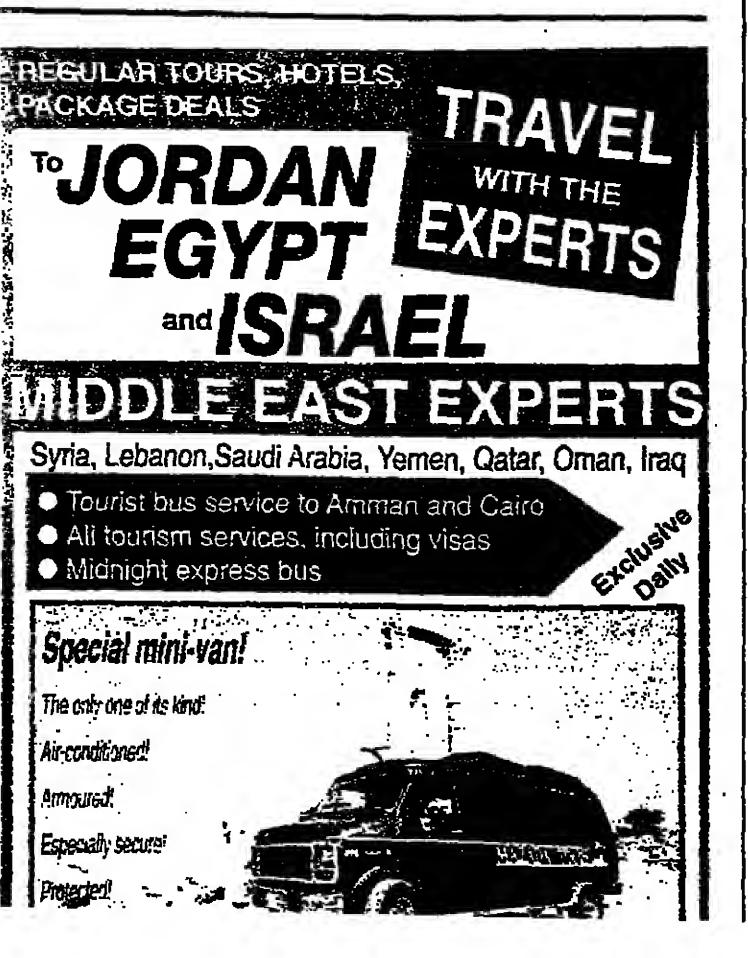
Speaking a little more diplomatically, Greek Patriarch Diodoros I openly condemned acts of terror and acknowledged that it was such acts which brought on strict security measures. However, in a message read by Metropolitan Timothy, secretary of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, Diodoros questioned Bibi's assertion that Israel had guaranteed freedom of access to the holy places.



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